

**Dallas Landmark Commission
Landmark Nomination Form**

1. Name

historic: Harris A. Kemp House
and/or common:
date: 1942

2. Location

address: 2822 Maple Springs Blvd.
location/neighborhood: Oak Lawn Heights

block: B/2330 **lot:** 6 & 7 **land survey:** Oak Lawn Heights
tract size: 31,800 sf. (0.73 acres).

3. Current Zoning

current zoning: R-7.5

4. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residence
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public	Accessibility	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> object	Acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> other, specify
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	_____

5. Ownership

Current Owner: William L. Mackin, Jr.
Contact: Jeffery Vilarino **Phone:** 619 549 8422
Address: 2822 Maple Springs Blvd. **City:** Dallas **State:** TX **Zip:** 75235

6. Form Preparation

Date: 1 June 2010, revised January 25, 2012
Name & Title: Daron Tapscott, Katherine Seale
Organization: Preservation Dallas
Contact: Daron Tapscott **Phone:** 214. 821 1755

7. Representation on Existing Surveys

Alexander Survey (citywide)	local	state	national	National Register
H.P.L. Survey (CBD)	A	B	C	Recorded TX Historic Ldmk
Oak Cliff			D	TX Archaeological Ldmk
Victorian Survey				
Dallas Historic Resources Survey, Phase	_____	_____	_____	_____
	high	medium	low	

For Office Use Only

Date Rec'd: _____ Survey Verified: Y N by: _____ Field Check by: _____ Petitions Needed: Y N
 Nomination: Archaeological Site Structure(s) Structure & Site District

8. Historic Ownership

original owner: Harris A. Kemp, FAIA
significant later owner(s): N/A

9. Construction Dates

original: 1942
alterations/additions: none

10. Architect

original construction: Harris A. Kemp, FAIA
alterations/additions:

11. Site Features

natural: Suburban setting, with natural, unimproved creek (Maple Springs Creek) in rear yard; site slopes toward the rear to the creek. Dense tree cover at edge of creek.
urban design: Approximately three-quarters of an acre site

12. Physical Description

Condition, check one:

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

unaltered
 altered

Check one:

original site
 moved(date _____)

Describe present and original (if known) physical appearance. Include style(s) of architecture, current condition and relationship to surrounding fabric (structures, objects, etc). Elaborate on pertinent materials used and style(s) of architectural detailing, embellishments and site details.

The Harris A. Kemp house is located in the Oak Lawn Heights neighborhood, approximately two miles from downtown Dallas. Unlike the Tudor styled houses of the neighborhood, the Harris Kemp house is “Contemporary” in design, reflecting its unique design for a single-family residential house at the time of construction in 1942 .

The house faces Maple Springs Blvd. with the carport adjacent to the house; the carport faces the side of the lot and is screened from the street; a drive leads from the street to the carport and landscaping provides additional screening. The front façade of the house aligns with the setback of the adjacent homes on the street. The large rectangular lot provides a very large rear yard which slopes slightly to Maple Springs Creek at the rear property line. A newer pool with hard-surfaces surrounding patio is approximately 40’ from the rear of the house, leaving an open space (of approximately 100’ depth) from the pool to the rear property line and creek.

The plan of the house is a rectangular block with a projecting pavilion facing the street. It is a split level plan utilizing the natural slope of the site. The rear of the lot descends to Maple Springs Creek, where the Kemp children played.

The entry level vestibule has an ascending and a descending stair. The stair to the lower level is to the public area of the house, the living room, dining room, kitchen, breakfast, and

screened porch. The ascending stair is to the private bedrooms. On the left (northeast) side of the house is a large covered patio and a carport. The front of the house faces northwest.

The roof is a compound form of three elements. The primary house has a clipped hipped form facing northeast, with a very minimal pitch. The center ridge is eliminated and replaced with a flat section, reducing the overall height of the structure. The right side of the roof is a simple gable terminated by the masonry chimney. The front (northwest) elevation has an overhang of approximately two feet. The rear (southeast) elevation has a deep screened porch on two levels. On the northeast, a simple flattened lean-to roof covers the patio and carport. The projecting pavilion (a studio for Mrs. Kemp) is one story with a flat roof and no overhang.

The exterior of the house is clad in brick veneer and redwood siding (now painted white). Generally the ground floor is brick veneer. The projecting pavilion adjacent to the entry walk is brick patterned in a modified "English Cross" pattern with the cross form corbelled. It is a bearing wall. The front face of the studio is patterned in a stacked bond pattern laid with the butts exposed and every other stack articulated.

Floating above the one-story studio are three large punched windows glazed with translucent glass. The front plane to the right side of the entry is recessed and is brick veneer extending to the height of the bedroom window sills. The only front facing window is a double hung two-over-two unit. The front elevation, with few windows and minimal detailing defines the public front yard from the private residence.

The rear elevation is dominated by the two story screened porches. The screening is divided into nine equal panels. This screening unifies the house and allows the interior rooms to have randomly placed windows and doors. The porches allow a transparency with the exterior, similar to post-war ranch houses. The patio becomes an extension of the living area.

13. Historical Significance

Statement of historical and cultural significance. Include: cultural influences, special events and important personages, influences on neighborhood, on the city, etc.

Harris Kemp was a significant architect during Dallas' explosive post-war growth. His work includes the Dallas Morning News Building, the Employers Insurance Office Building, and the Dallas City Hall, as the local architect in association with I. M. Pei. The significance of his work was recognized by his inclusion in the Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in June 1969.

Harris Kemp was born in Kewanee, Illinois in 1912. His father was a civil engineer. Kemp graduated from the University of Illinois with B.S. (1934) and M.S. (1935) degrees. He then received a Masters of Architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1937).¹ Harris Kemp received the Plym Fellowship, allowing him and his wife to travel in Europe during 1937-1938.²

He began the practice of architecture in Dallas as a designer-draftsman for the Texas Centennial in 1936 as a member of the 130 person staff assembled and under the direction of George Dahl. He then worked for the state of Wisconsin for two years. Kemp returned to Dallas as a designer with the firm of LaRoche-Dahl. For one year during the war, he worked as a Supervisor in plant layout of North American Aviation, in Grand Prairie. Returning to the firm George Dahl Architect & Engineers, he served as the offices' chief designer from 1944-1955; one of his major projects there included the design of Dallas' Municipal Auditorium that was completed in 1957, after he left Dahl's firm. In 1955, Kemp left Dahl's office and formed Harper & Kemp Architects with Terrell Harper; Harper had also worked for Dahl's office and had left in 1954 to form his own firm.

Harper & Kemp's major works during this period include: Dallas Country Club, State Fair Livestock Coliseum, Danciger Research Laboratories Building at Southwest Medical School, The Denton State School, Great American of Dallas Building, Corporate Office Building for Collins Radio Corporation, the Jewish Community Center, and 2355 Stemmons Building³, and Dallas City Hall (1978) which they partnered with I. M. Pei as the local architect.⁴ It is to be noted that Harper & Kemp extensively cited the quote of Henry Wolton, "Well building hath three conditions: commodity, firmness, and delight." Those principles are evident in the broad body of work that his firm produced.

In 1974 the firm merged with James Clutts and Howard Parker (Clutts and Parker Architects) to form Harper, Kemp, Clutts and Parker, Architects (also known as 'HKCP').⁵ Grady Jennings joined the firm in 1980, and HKCP Interiors Group was formed to specialize this specialty of architecture. In 1995, Robert Hackler became a partner and following the

¹ Harper-Kemp Architects, Promotional Brochure. (no page numbers).

² *Dallas Morning News*, Harris Kemp Obituary, 25 October 1996.

³ Harper-Kemp Architects, Promotional Brochure. (no page numbers).

⁴ *The American Institute of Architects Guide to Dallas Architecture*, Dallas: Dallas Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 1999; pgs 14, 15.

⁵ Jennings*Hackler and Partners, Inc. website: jennings-hackler.com, accessed January 24, 2012.

retirement of the last founding partner of HKCP, the name of the firm was changed to Jennings*Hackler + Partners, Inc.⁶ This firm remains in practice today – with its legacy dating to 1955 when Terrell Harper and Harris Kemp joined forces to practice architecture in Dallas during what would become one of the City’s most prolific eras for design and construction.

Harris Kemp was active in the city of Dallas and the profession of architecture. He served the city of Dallas as a member of Zoning Advisory Council (ZOAC), Dallas West Revitalization Commission, Zoning Revision Committee, Greater Dallas Planning Council, Director of Central Business District Association (CBDA), the CBDA Environment Committee, and served on the General Services Administration, Advisory Panel. Kemp also was active in his profession, serving as the Director of the Texas Architectural Foundation (1957), Director of Texas Society of Architects (1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968)⁷, Vice-President of the Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (1955) and President (1957).⁸

Harris Kemp and his family lived in this house from 1942 to 1959. He then designed another home in Greenway Parks which he and his family lived in until his death. Kemp passed away on October 24, 1996.

Harris Kemp only designed three homes during his career, the first home on Maple Springs. The second house was for a client on Drexel near the Highland Park Town Hall. The last was the family’s second home at 5328 Waneta, in Greenway Parks Addition.

The home of Harris Kemp is significant in the architectural history of the city. It is one of Dallas’ earliest examples of a “Contemporary” design statement with an acknowledgment of regional influence in materials and climate. Harris Kemp was an architect trained in the transplanted traditions of the Bauhaus. This is expressed in the low profile nature of the structure, the emphasis on horizontal expression, and the use of modest materials. The overall design foreshadows mid-century modernism by a decade. The house, with a low horizontal profile, low pitched roofs and connections to the exterior is a marked departure from the Tudor-style cottages typical of this neighborhood.

⁶ Jennings*Hackler and Partners, Inc. website: jennings-hackler.com, accessed January 24, 2012.

⁷ *Transformations: the Architects, Buildings & Events that shaped Dallas Architecture*. Quimby, Marcel, Stacy, Dennis and Winters, Willis; Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 2008; page 43.

⁸ Ibid; page 43.

14. Bibliography

“American Institute of Architects – Honors Dallas Resident,” Press Release issued by the Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, May 17, 1969.

“Harper & Kemp Architects”, Proposal for Great American of Dallas Building, Dallas, Texas, 1965. In collection of Connie Bosworth, nee Kemp.

The American Institute of Architects Guide to Dallas Architecture, Fuller, Larry Paul, editor. Dallas: Dallas Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 1999.

Harper & Kemp Office Brochure, copy and un-dated. In collection of Connie Bosworth (nee Kemp).

Dallas Morning News, “Harris Kemp”, Oct. 25, 1996.

Dallas Morning News, “Architects Honor Two”, May 18, 1969.

Transformations: the Architects, Buildings & Events that shaped Dallas Architecture. Quimby, Marcel, Stacy, Dennis and Winters, Willis. Dallas; Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 2008.

15. Attachments

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>District or Site Map</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Additional descriptive material</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Site Plan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Footnotes</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Photos (historic & current)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other:</i> _____



Front elevation facing Maple Springs



Northeast elevation showing patio and carport.



Harris A. Kemp

Harris Kemp, May 1969

16. Designation Criteria

History, heritage and culture:
Represents the historical development, ethnic heritage or cultural characteristics of the city, state, or country.

Historic event:
Location of or association with the site of a significant historic event.

Significant persons:
Identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the city, state, or country.

Architecture:
Embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, landscape design, method of construction, exceptional craftsmanship, architectural innovation, or contains details which represent folk or ethnic art.

Architect or master builder:
Represents the work of an architect, designer or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, state or country.

Historic context: Relationship to other distinctive buildings, sites, or areas which are eligible for preservation based on historic, cultural, or architectural characteristics.

Unique visual feature:
Unique location of singular physical characteristics representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the city that is a source of pride or cultural significance.

Archeological:

Archeological or paleontological value in that it has produced or can be expected to produce data affecting theories of historic or prehistoric interest.

National and state recognition:
Eligible of or designated as a National Historic Landmark, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, State Archeological Landmark, American Civil Engineering Landmark, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic education:
Represents an era of architectural, social, or economic history that allows an understanding of how the place or area was used by past generations.

<i>Recommendation</i>

The Designation Committee requests the Landmark Commission to deem this nominated landmark meritorious of designation as outlined in Chapter 51 and Chapter 51A, Dallas Development Code.

Further, the Designation Task Force endorses the Preservation Criteria, policy recommendations and landmark boundary as presented by the Department of Planning and Development.

Date:

***Chair
Designation Committee***

Senior Historic Preservation Planner