

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Shields House

Other Name/Site Number: THC Survey File: Phase IV-East Dallas DAL/DA 594

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 4602 Reiger Ave

City/Town: Dallas

Not for Publication: N/A

State: TX County: Dallas Code: 113 Zip Code: 75246

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings sites structures objects
1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic & Architectural Resources of East and South Dallas

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State of Federal Agency or Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is

entered in the National Register

see continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register

see continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the

National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

Current: Domestic

Sub: Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Late Victorian

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements

Other Description

Queen Anne

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials: foundation brick

walls wood

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

 x See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1906

Significant Dates: 1906

Significance Person: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

 x See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Historic Context List of References

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
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone/Easting/Northing Zone/Easting/Northing

A	B
C	D

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Property includes area historically associated with structure.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Daniel Hardy/Project Director
Terri Myers/Historian

Organization: Daniel Hardy,
Preservation Consultant

Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande St.
City or Town: Austin

Date: July 1991
Telephone: 512-478-8014
State: TX Zip: 78705

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Thomas Shiels House

The Thomas Shiels House at 4602 Reiger Avenue is a 2 1/2-story, frame, domestic building with an asymmetrical plan and a multi-hipped roof. Stylistically, the house is a hybrid, incorporating features characteristic of the Queen Anne, Craftsman and, to a lesser extent, Prairie School styles. The walls are finished with wood, and the roof has asphalt shingles. The facade is distinguished by its overall asymmetrical massing and the 1-story porch extending to the west side. The Shiels House is in E.H. Ray's Addition, a predominantly residential area with mostly 2-story frame houses built between 1902 and 1915. The house fronts northwest onto Reiger Avenue, and occupies a corner lot. The surrounding grounds are well-maintained with modest amounts of landscaping. The Thomas Shiels House is in very good condition and retains much of its historic character and integrity. There are no major exterior alterations.

Land on which the Shiels House was built is level and slightly higher than street grade. Concrete sidewalks are set back from and parallel to the streets. Another concrete sidewalk extends from the street to the front porch. Large deciduous trees are to the east and west of the house, which rests on a pier-and-beam foundation that is probably built of brick and wood. The house is of wood-frame construction, and the exterior walls are finished with wood drop siding and shingles. The roof, which has a small gabled dormer and brick chimney on the west side, is comprised of a series of steeply pitched hipped roofs.

The facade, which faces northwest onto Reiger Avenue, displays a variety of architectural detailing and influences. The porch, which may be an early alteration, has a strong and heavy horizontal emphasis (characteristic of the Prairie School style) that contrasts with the vertical massing and lines of the main body of the house. The porch has broad, yet short wood supports that rest on brick pedestals. The extended porch eaves are supported by heavy brackets that are reflective of the Craftsman movement. The asymmetrical massing of the front, with its stepped configuration, is indicative of Victorian-era traditions. The cutaway corners at the base of the front wing and the variety of materials used on the exterior are typical Queen Anne-style features. A particularly noteworthy architectural detail is the shingled

horizontal band that extends along the top of the second floor. This band, which has staggered wood shingles, continues to the other walls and is interrupted by window openings that extend partially into it. Many of the architectural details seen on the front are echoed on the other elevations.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 8

Thomas Shiels House

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The Thomas Shiels House at 4602 Reiger Avenue exhibits a noteworthy combination of late 19th- and early 20th-century architectural styles and includes Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Prairie School features. The house was built ca. 1906 and dates from the earliest years of East Dallas' most prolific period of residential construction (1903-1929). It is one of the most intact early dwellings that has survived subsequent redevelopment efforts in the area, insensitive alteration or substantial deterioration. It is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for exceptional architectural merit.

An invigorated local economy that followed nearly a decade (1893-1903) of economic and construction stagnation in Dallas, prompted renewed real estate and streetcar development throughout the city, particularly in East Dallas. In its initial development period (1879-1893) the eastern section of old East Dallas was subdivided into large, half- and quarter-block estates for elegant country homes. When the economy began to revive in the first years of the 20th century, East Dallas became the scene intense building activity. By 1906, impressive Classical Revival houses lined Swiss and Ross avenues, while in the southern reaches of the region, along Elm and Alcalde streets, modest frame cottages were erected for working-class families. Between the two extremes, along Victor, Reiger, Junius and Worth streets, scores of 1 1/2- and 2-story frame houses, such as the Shiels House, were constructed for middle-class families. The Shiels House is an excellent example of the type of single-family residence that marked the second phase of East Dallas' development, when many elaborate old Victorian estates were replaced with less ostentatious, yet substantial dwellings.

Thomas Shiels was typical of the residents of Reiger Avenue in the first two decades of the 20th-century. He was vice-president of Citizens Planing Mill, which produced custom woodwork, doors, sash and interior finish, in ca. 1906, the year his house was built. By 1920, Shiels and his brother formed their own company, Shiels-Stacy-Shiels, and they advertised themselves in the Dallas city directory as manufacturers of high-grade mill work and interior finish. In fact, a number of builders and architectural craftsmen constructed homes for themselves in East Dallas in the 1910s and 1920s that reflected the architectural styles and practices of their day. Shiels' neighbors on Reiger

Avenue included Didaco Bianchi (4503 Reiger), a partner in an architectural cement stone company and John Knott (4502 Reiger), a building contractor. Both houses are extant. Shiels, Bianchi and Knott probably contracted or oversaw the construction of their own houses.

One of the earliest houses on Reiger Avenue, the Shiels House is also one of the most intact and best-maintained. The house stands today as an exceptional example of an eclectic East Dallas house whose builder's skill, dedication to quality construction and craftsmanship is evident in its current condition and appeal. The Shiels House is indicative of the change that took place in domestic architectural tastes during the early 20th century. It features an asymmetrical massing and Queen Anne style detailing that was popular during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. On the other hand, the porch incorporates elements of the Prairie School and Craftsman movements that were beginning to gain widespread acceptance in Dallas and much of the rest of the state and nation during the early 20th century. Research has not been able to confirm if the porch is original; however, Sanborn maps of 1922 reveal a porch with the same configuration. Consequently, if the porch is an alteration, it is significant and is considered to be part of the structure's physical and architectural evolution. Today, the Shiels House retains much of its historic integrity and character.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10

Thomas Shiels House

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point at the eastern corner of Reiger Avenue and Colson Street, proceed northeast along Reiger Avenue for 80 feet. Then, turn southeast and proceed 160 feet to the rear property line. Turning southwest, proceed 80 feet to Colson Street. Then turn northwest and proceed 160 feet along Colson Street to the point of origin on Reiger Avenue.

