

PETITION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION TO THE HISTORICAL LANDMARK COMMISSION, PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, AND CITY COUNCIL OF DENTON, TEXAS:

I/We, the undersigned, owner(s) of, or party(s) with financial interest in, all property herein described, do hereby file this, my/our petition, asking that the said property be designated as a historic landmark under the provisions of Ordinance #80-30 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Denton, Texas. The said property is located at 1023 West Oak St

and is more particularly described as follows:

*Venetian Palace Italian Style with  
see previous page*

*Twenty-five*

*\$25.00*

I/We herewith tender the filing fee of ~~One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150)~~ *Twenty-five* *\$25.00*  
I authorize the City of Denton to place a sign or sign(s) on the above property for public notification of the proposed historic designation.

(Miss) Nettie J. Cummings  
NAME  
1023 West Oak St.  
ADDRESS  
Denton CITY STATE Texas  
PHONE 382-8446

Submitted this 10th day of October, 1980

Criteria to be used in Historical Landmark Designation

The petitioner will be responsible for furnishing data to the Planning and Community Development Department for submittal to the Landmark Commission substantiating that the property meets at least one or more of the following 13 criteria for Historic Landmark designation:

1. Character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City of Denton, State of Texas, or the United States.
2. Recognition as a recorded Texas historic landmark, a national landmark, or entered into the National Register of Historic Places.
3. Embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.
4. Identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city.
5. Embodiment of elements of architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant architectural innovation.
6. Relationship to other distinctive buildings, sites or areas which are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on architectural, historic or cultural motif.
7. Portrayal of the environment of a group of people in an area of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style.
8. Archaeological value in that it has produced or can be expected to produce data affecting theories of historic or prehistoric interest.
9. Exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, ethnic or historical heritage of the City, State or United States. *N. T. S. U.*
10. Location as the site of a significant historic event.
11. Identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the City, State or United States.
12. A building or structure that because of its location has become of value to a neighborhood, community area, or the city.
13. Value as an aspect of community sentiment or public pride.

Criteria to be used in Historical Landmark Designation: Explanations.

- #3 EMBODIMENT OF DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ARCHITECTURAL TYPE OR SPECIMEN.

Venetian Palace style as explained and described under #5

- #4 IDENTIFICATION AS THE WORK OF AN ARCHITECT OR MASTER BUILDER WHOSE INDIVIDUAL WORK HAS INFLUENCED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY.

The contractor builder for the House was Yancy and Hill, prominent in the construction business in Denton in the late 1910's and early 1920's. They also built the Fred Minor Home and others in the area.

- #5 EMBODIMENT OF ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, DETAIL, MATERIALS OR CRAFTSMANSHIP WHICH REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL INNOVATION.

Venetian Palace Italinatate style was one of the three prominent Italian Revival styles which followed the Victorian period in the early 1900's in America. All three styles are present in Denton. The Sullivan-Cummings House is a very fine example of its kind. The stucco (usually over brick) exterior smoothly finished as typical of Venice was ornamented with applied carved ornaments, windows with different detail treatments and sizes, and off center entrance doors. This house has a fine carved ornament in the lunette under the entrance cornice which is an arch supported by recumbant brackets. The entrance is balanced by a Palladian window on the east with fan light. The interior of the house is Etruscan with fine mill work, an exquisite wood mantle with pilasters, a lovely stair balustrade of wood and a sun porch. The two-story house has been well maintained and has been owned by only three owners.

- #6. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER DISTINCTIVE BUILDINGS, SITES OR AREAS WHICH ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PRESERVATION ACCORDING TO A PLAN BASED ON ARCHITECTURAL, HISTORIC OR CULTURAL MOTIF.

The house is in the 1000 Block of Oak Street and is located amidst the other fine homes of the Silk-stocking Row of Old Revived Oak Street.

- #9. EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, ETHNIC OR HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF THE CITY, STATE OR UNITED STATES.

Built During the time when Denton grew from its Pioneer heritage to its Cultural and economic greatness before the great depression of the 1930's. This was the time of Revival for Oak Street when its first pioneer houses were replaced by grand houses.

HISTORIC LANDMARK ZONING PETITION: pg. 2

1023 West Oak Street, Denton, Texas 76201 Nettie Jo. Cummings.

CRITERIA TO BE USED IN HISTORICAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION: Explanation

#11 IDENTIFICATION WITH A PERSON OR PERSONS WHO SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY, STATE OR UNITED STATES.

Judge J. W. Sullivan and his wife built the house in 1920. He was prominent in the legal circles of Denton and Denton County. After his death in 1925 Mrs. Sullivan and their daughter Will Ann continued to live in the house later selling it to Dr. and Mrs. L.A. Sharp. Dr. Sharp was first a Professor of Education at North Texas State University and later its Dean of the Graduate School for many years. He was a Rotarian and very interested in the progress of Denton and the many young people who learned at his feet. Many of the town's people and students were entertained in the house while he lived there. Mrs. Sharp was active in the Women's Club of North Texas. At the death of Dr. Sharp in 1942 Mrs. Sharp was critically ill and her Sister, Miss Nettie Jo. Cummings resigned her position at the University of Texas at Austin to come and care for her. When she was able to be alone Miss Cummings applied for and received a teaching appointment at the North Texas State University foreign language department where she taught Spanish for 20 years. When Mrs. Sharp died in 1966 she will the home to Miss Cummings who still lives in the house and cares for it well. This home, like all the homes of Oak Street, has contributed to the cultural and economic development and influence of Denton on the lives of its citizens and university students by lending its style for drawing, for homemaking studies, for architectural styles and gracious entertaining. It has provided a home for three sets of important persons in Denton and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Entrance Detail



## Historic Landmark Designation

The Venetian Palace style Italian house, located at 1023 West Oak Street, Denton, Texas was built in 1920 by Yancy and Hill. The original owner was Judge Sullivan, a prominent Denton lawyer.

After the sudden death of Judge Sullivan, about 1925, Mrs. Sullivan rented the house to Dr. L. A. Sharp, Professor of Education at North Texas State University, and later Dean of the Graduate School at North Texas. A few years later Mrs. Sullivan sold the house to Dr. and Mrs. Sharp.

The Sharps were active in North Texas affairs and in Denton affairs. Dr. Sharp was a Rotarian and was interested in the progress of Denton and of North Texas. Mrs. Sharp was a member of several women's organizations and was active in the Women's Club of North Texas.

After the death of Dr. Sharp in 1942 Mrs. Sharp's sister, Miss Pettie Jo Cummings, who was teaching at the University of Texas at Austin, came to Denton to care for Mrs. Sharp who was ill of high blood pressure and a slight heart condition. Mrs. Sharp's condition improved temporarily and Miss Cummings took a teaching position at North Texas, where she taught for the next 20 years ~~there~~ she retired in 1968. Mrs. Sharp died in 1966. She willed the home to her sister, Miss Cummings, who still lives there.