



CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

URBAN PLANNING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

STAFF REPORT

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

LOCAL DESIGNATION REQUEST

For **Public Hearing and Recommendation to City Council** on **January 10, 2017** beginning at 3:00 P.M., Council Chambers, City Hall, 175 Fifth Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida

According to Planning and Economic Development Department records, Commissioner Lisa Wannemacher resides or has a place of business within 2,000 feet of the subject property. All other possible conflicts should be declared upon the announcement of the item.

CASE NO.:	HPC 16-90300005
STREET ADDRESS:	136 Fifth Avenue North
LANDMARK:	John L. and Virginia Burnside House
OWNER:	Fuel Investment & Development II, LLC
APPLICANT:	St. Petersburg Preservation, Inc.
REQUEST:	Local Landmark Designation of the Burnside House



John L. and Virginia Burnside House, 136 Fifth Avenue North

OVERVIEW

A non-owner initiated application for Local Historic Landmark designation of the John L. and Virginia Burnside House (subject property), located at 136 Fifth Avenue North, was submitted by St. Petersburg Preservation, Inc. in July of 2016. Prepared by Howard Ferebee Hanson, the application provides detailed information regarding the building's early ownership, as well as historic and architectural context. The subject property is listed as a contributing property to the Downtown St. Petersburg Historic District, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 3, 2004.

STAFF FINDINGS

Staff finds that the Burnside House, located at 136 Fifth Avenue North, is **eligible for designation as a Local Historic Landmark**. In St. Petersburg, Local Historic Landmark eligibility is determined based on evaluations of age, context, and integrity under a two-part test as found in Section 16.30.070.2.5(D) of the City Code. Under the first test, historic documentation demonstrates that the Burnside House was constructed over 100 years ago, surpassing the minimum required age of 50. Further, staff concurs with the applicant's assessment that the subject property satisfies criteria C, E, and F, and recommends that its significance under criteria G and H should additionally be considered. Under the second test, staff finds that all of the seven factors of integrity are met.

Historic Significance and Satisfaction of Contextual Criteria

The first portion of the two-part test to determine Local Historic Landmark eligibility examines a resource's historic significance with relation to nine criteria. One or more of these criteria must be met in order for a property to qualify for designation as a Local Historic Landmark. The nomination documentation suggests that the property satisfies the criteria as follows.

Is at least one of the following historic contextual criteria met?								
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N

Staff agrees with the applicant's finding that the Burnside House meets criteria C, E, and F.

C) It is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the city, state, or nation.

The applicant references two separate individuals with historic ties to the subject property in the nomination documentation. The subject property was home to Virginia Burnside, the city's first female Commissioner, at the time of her election. Staff concurs that, as the first woman elected to serve for St. Petersburg's municipal government, Virginia Burnside was influential in the city's development.

The home was later co-owned by Dr. Florence Duckering and her sister, Mary Duckering. Florence Duckering, the first female member of the American College of Surgeons, continued her gynecological practice in Boston during this period, whereas Mary resided there on a fairly permanent basis. Dr. Florence Duckering retired from practice in 1946, at which point the sisters purchased another home in St. Petersburg. The building's association with not one, but two female trailblazers in Burnside and Duckering is an interesting, albeit coincidental, note in the history of the subject property. However, there does not appear to be sufficient merit for including Florence Duckering's role as a city, state, or national leader in the argument for the house's

historical significance, given the lack of connection between the accomplishments of her career and the subject property.

E) Its value as a building is recognized for the value of its architecture, and it retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.

The applicant notes that the Burnside House is representative of the Prairie style and features few modern alterations. Few buildings of the style and scale remain in the city; such examples are especially rare in the Downtown St. Petersburg Historic District.

F) It has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.

The subject property, the applicant contends, is a noteworthy example of an early Prairie style bungalow in St. Petersburg. Fine details such as masonry veneer, box cornices, and grouped double hung sash windows have been retained and successfully convey the building's association with both the Prairie style and the city's pre-World War I land boom. The relative scarcity of Prairie style buildings in the area is owed, in part, to its short-lived popularity, which spanned roughly the first two decades of the twentieth century.¹

Beyond its individual architectural and social significance as presented by the applicant, staff finds that the subject property meets two additional criteria, which acknowledge the strong dialogue between the building and its surroundings. The subject property's eligibility under these criteria could not be considered by the applicant, as Section 16.30.070.2.5.B.2 of City Code requires evidence of support from the owners of 66 percent of tax parcels within a proposed district's boundaries, a written description and map of said boundaries, and a list of contributing and non-contributing properties, a process generally led by an association of homeowners. As a non-owner-supported application, therefore, the subject property cannot be designated under these criteria. However, given the increasing scarcity of contiguous collections of architecturally significant single-family homes dating to the early twentieth century within the Downtown St. Petersburg Historic District, staff recommends that the subject property's significance as a part of one such remaining cluster should, at the very least, be noted. Because of the intact nature of the subject property's immediate environs, staff suggests that it is eligible under the following criteria.

G) Its character is a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration, or continuity of sites, buildings, objects or structures united in past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

The Burnside House is located within a concentrated area of bungalows dating to the early 1910s, during which time St. Petersburg saw its first major building boom and the early stages of suburbanization. Both the Burnside House and the residences which surround it are notable for their large size and grand architecture. Other remaining concentrations of historic residential buildings in the Downtown St. Petersburg Historic District were originally constructed at a more affordable scale for families of their era, like Lang's Bungalow Court, or multi-family units meant to house seasonal residents, like the concentration of apartment buildings surrounding Mirror Lake. The residences on the 100 block of Fifth Avenue North, however, were initially constructed

¹ John C. Poppeliers, S. Allen Chambers, Jr., and Nancy B. Schwartz, *What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture*, (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1983), 80.

for St. Petersburg's early upper middle class, including doctors, City Commissioners, and builders.

H) Its character is an established or geographically definable neighborhood, united in culture, architectural style or physical plan and development.

When considered in dialogue with its surrounds, the subject property contributes to the concentration of buildings representing the pre-World War I period of development in St. Petersburg. Despite their later reuse as multi-family residences or even commercial spaces, the area retains a historic continuity defined and united by a consistency of form and scale, historic hex block sidewalks, and historic landscaping that extends beyond the significance of each individual building. The Burnside House is located within a continuous grouping of relatively grand, Craftsman-influenced bungalows constructed during the 1910s. With the exception of the parcels at its east and west edges, the buildings on the 100 block of Fifth Avenue North are one to two stories in height and constructed for single-family residential use.

Despite the buildings' evolution of use, this block collectively conveys the appearance of an upper-middle class residential street dating to St. Petersburg's first "Land Boom," which occurred during the early 1910s. Although Fifth Avenue North has been converted to a one-way street and carries somewhat heavy traffic, the block retains many of its historic granite curbs, historic street trees, and nearly all of its historic hex block sidewalks. The four houses fronting the south side of Fifth Avenue North adhere to a uniform setback from the street and feature similar massing and overall building heights, creating a prevailing sense of cohesiveness. When compared to later Florida bungalows, the subject property and those surrounding it are relatively long and narrow, the result being that they feature larger interiors than one might guess from a glance at their facades. This characteristic was influenced by the pedestrian scale and deep, narrow lots that dominated the first-developed areas of St. Petersburg.

The bungalow form would remain immensely popular in St. Petersburg during the late 1910s and into the 1920s. The building type was particularly embraced as the young city spread to the north, south, and west of downtown with neighborhoods dominated by single-family residences, and houses within those neighborhoods generally feature wider footprints and more blatant horizontal massing. The Burnside House and its neighbors, however, are representative of a period of transition as the era of centralized downtown development made way for the era suburbanization that followed. It is worth noting that the buildings were built within five years following the expansion of streetcar lines along Second Street, only a few hundred feet from the subject property.²

As noted above, the subject property and its surroundings appear to constitute the most intact collection of its type remaining within the Downtown St. Petersburg Historic District. In spite of its close proximity to continuing redevelopment, the experience of walking through this cluster of residences provides a sense of immersion that is exceedingly rare and cannot be replicated.

Historic Integrity

Once a potential resource has been found to meet at least one of the nine criteria for historical significance, a second test, which involves the property's integrity, is begun. In order for a resource to pass the second test, at least one of the seven factors of integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association) must be met. In most cases, integrity

² James Buckley, *Street Railways of St. Petersburg Florida*, (Forty Fort, PA: Harold E. Cox, 1983); 8.

of feeling and association by themselves rarely merit a property's eligibility for designation, since these factors often rely on personalized experiences, emotions, and perceptions.

The applicant does not methodically discuss integrity factors. However, staff finds that the Burnside House does meet all seven of these factors, though some have diminished over time, as follows.

Is at least one factor of the following factors of integrity met?						
Location	Design	Setting	Materials	Workmanship	Feeling*	Association*
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
*Must be present in addition to at least one other factor.						

Location: The building's location remains unchanged.

Design: Despite additions, the building's overall form has been maintained, and its carved details have been preserved to a high degree.

Setting: The bungalows surrounding the subject property comprise a continuous and concentrated representation of early twentieth century single-family residences.

Materials: The subject property's historic materials remain in place. Sacrificial materials, such as roof cladding, have been replaced as part of routine and necessary maintenance without detracting from the building's overall appearance.

Workmanship: The methods used to create and apply the home's Prairie style details visibly tie it early twentieth century methods

Feeling: The subject property retains its overall historic appearance and continues to convey the feeling of a single-family, Prairie style residence.

Association: The subject property clearly communicates its association with the movements that characterized construction of its era.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

The bungalow at 136 Fifth Avenue North, known herein as the Burnside House, is a two-story wood frame house with a stucco and masonry exterior and a hipped roof clad in asphalt shingles. The Burnside House, like many bungalows constructed in the early twentieth century, features the influences of an eclectic mix of architectural styles, rather than strictly following the inspiration of a single academic style. As noted by the applicant, the subject property's dominant style is the Prairie style, which is evident in the ground floor's horizontal masonry banding, as well as the wide and low massing emphasized by the expansive front porch and square truncated columns arranged in pairs and triplicate on masonry pedestals. However, the Burnside House exhibits an air of formality that references Colonial Revival elements, a stylistic influence that is noted in the residence's listing as part of the Downtown St. Petersburg Historic District National Register nomination. Elements such as the use of multiple small panes of glass in the windows' upper sashes and the appearance of a simple, essentially rectangular footprint from the façade speak

to this reference. Colonial allusions were not infrequently incorporated into bungalow exteriors in the early twentieth century, even when their interior plans adhered to Craftsman tenets of design.³

The building's deep eaves with box cornices are another unique and noteworthy feature. Though deep eaves are often associated with the broad, horizontal aesthetic promoted by prairie style, the bead board soffits at the subject property add a level of embellishment not typically seen and appear to conceal an integral gutter system (Figure 1). Although the building seems quite simple in form from the façade, as seen in the photograph on the cover page of this report, its rear footprint is actually irregular.



Figure 1: Box cornice system, as seen at rear (south) elevation

According to property records, the Burnside House was constructed circa 1914 with eight rooms and five bathrooms; a two-story garage apartment, since demolished, was built simultaneously.⁴ Both buildings appear on the 1918 Sanborn Map of the area; the presence of a masonry veneer on the subject property is indicated by a blue outline (Figure 2). The map suggests that, at that time, the subject property's front porch spanned the entire width of its façade.

The first known owners of the subject property are John L. and Virginia Burnside. The Burnsides, originally of Griggsville, Illinois, moved to St. Petersburg from Chicago in 1911, drawn by its temperate climate. Virginia Burnside became a prominent member of the community, was involved in the local chapter of the Red Cross, and became St. Petersburg's first female City Commissioner in 1920 while residing at the subject property.⁵ The Burnside family relocated within the city shortly thereafter.⁶ The 1920 United States Census enumeration for the property lists John

³ Jan Cigliano, *Bungalow: American Restoration Style*, (Salt Lake City: Gibbs-Smith Publisher, 1998); 21.

⁴ City of St. Petersburg, Florida, "Property Card for 136 5th Ave. N.," on file, City of St. Petersburg, Florida.

⁵ *Evening Independent*, "Ladies of Local Red Cross Asked to Give Up All Social Functions," May 30, 1917; A.R. Dunlap, "The Rambler: Election of Mrs. C.G. Edwards Recalls Fact Virginia Burnside Was City Commissioner in 1920," *St. Petersburg Times*, May 17, 1951.

⁶ *Evening Independent*, "Miss Mary W. Duckering arrived," September 10, 1921.

Burnside, a hat salesman, as the head of household, and Virginia, servant Hallie Clark, and seven boarders as additional residents.⁷

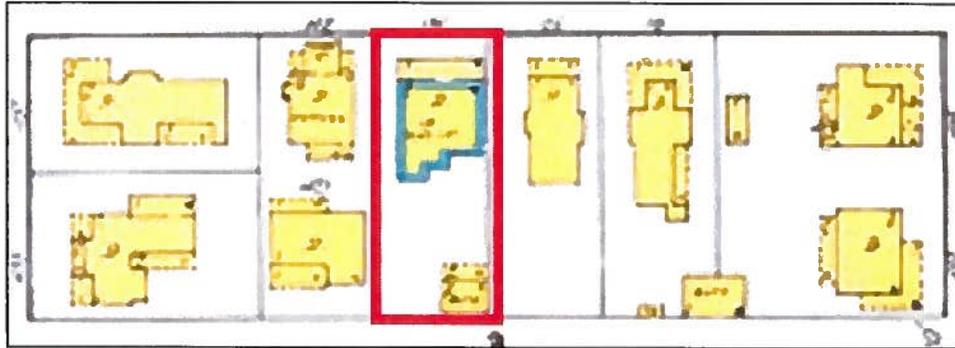


Figure 2: 1918 Sanborn Map of the 100 block of Fifth Avenue North with parcel of 136 highlighted⁸

The subject property was purchased in 1921 by sisters Mary W. Duckering and Dr. Florence W. Duckering.⁹ Records suggest that Mary lived in the property and managed it as a boarding house while Florence, the first female member of the American College of Surgeons,¹⁰ continued her medical practice in Boston.¹¹ When Florence retired from medicine in 1946, the sisters sold the subject property and purchased a smaller home in the nearby North Shore neighborhood.¹² The subject property remained in use as residential units until 1989, when a permit was granted for its use as commercial space.¹³

NOTABLE CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

Despite having been vacant for an extended period, the Burnside House continues to convey its historic significance as a fine and intact example of a grand, early twentieth century bungalow of the Prairie style. It retains a high degree of the historic elements that connect it to the style and era. Staff considers the building's primary character-defining elements to be:

- Its two-story form and overall footprint,
- Its low, hipped roof with flat-roof porch,
- Masonry exterior treatment and porch piers,
- Tall masonry chimney,
- Paired square porch columns,
- Boxed cornice with wood trim, and
- Six-, nine-, and twelve-over one double-hung sash windows.

⁷ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MNB4-CN3>).

⁸ Sanborn Map Company, *St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida* [map], 1918, ProQuest, LLC: 2016.

⁹ *Evening Independent*, "Miss Mary W. Duckering Arrived from Boston," September 10, 1921.

¹⁰ Debrah A. Wirtzfeld, "The History of Women in Surgery," *PubMed Central*, 2009.

¹¹ "United States Census, 1930", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:SBWZ-FZM>); "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K4VZ-SB9>).

¹² *St. Petersburg Times*, "Woman Surgeon Known Here Dies," October 30, 1951.

¹³ Property Card.

ALTERATIONS

The applicant references the building's overall integrity, noting that minor changes to create a rear steel fire escape were made in 1956 and that a detached garage apartment was demolished in 1986. Property records and field observations confirm that few changes have been made to the building's exterior. In addition to those changes discussed by the applicant, documentation suggests that the sunroom at the western end of the front porch is not original to the building. As seen in the 1952 map in Figure 3, the original footprint, featuring a regular, squared façade and stepped rear, had been retained. The map suggests that the full-width front porch (indicated by dashed lines) remained open at the time it was drawn. Interior renovations by owner James Paul in 1953 and 1956 are noted in property records, so it is possible that the sunroom was created in conjunction with these improvements.

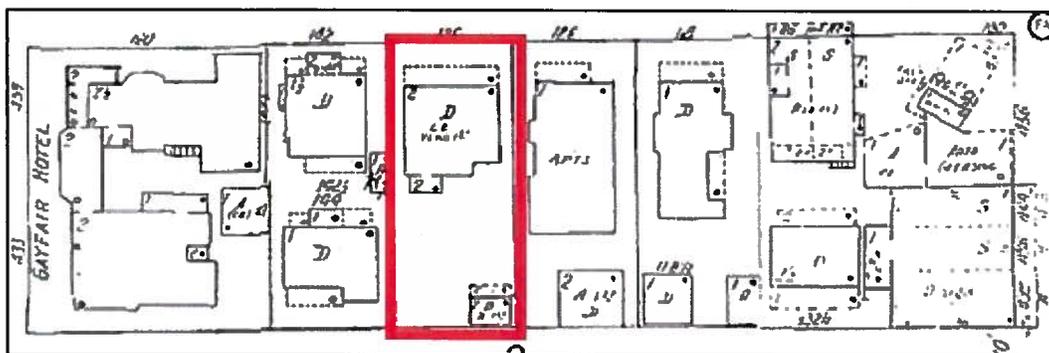


Figure 3: 1952 Sanborn Map of the 100 block of Fifth Avenue North with parcel of 136 highlighted¹⁴

Based on the appearance, construction methods, and materials used in the sunroom, it is unlikely that the enclosure was constructed later than the 1950s (Figure 4). In fact, given the compatibility of the enclosure's materials with the subject property as a whole, it is possible that this alteration was performed between 1923, when the map was initially drawn, and its final update in 1952, but that the surveyor mistakenly neglected to note the change. The enclosure continues the masonry exterior treatment, the nine-over-one wood frame double hung sash windows, and the arrangement and rhythm of fenestration present in the original portion of the house. When taking into account the age and architecturally sympathetic nature of this alteration, staff does not consider the enclosure to reduce historic integrity to such an extent that the subject property's eligibility is affected.

¹⁴ Sanborn Map Company, *St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida* [map], 1952, ProQuest, LLC: 2016.



Figure 4: Sunroom at western side of front porch

PROPERTY OWNER CONSENT AND IMPACT OF DESIGNATION

The proposed Local Historic Landmark designation was submitted by St. Petersburg Preservation, Inc., a third party non-owner of the subject property. As required by Section 16.30.070.2.5.C.4 of City Code, the applicant included proof that a copy of the application was provided to the registered owner via certified mail when the application was submitted. Separately, a copy of the application and materials were provided by City Staff to Larry Hyman, who was officially appointed as receiver for the subject property by the court.

Benefits of Local Historic Landmark designation include increased heritage tourism through the maintenance and promotion of the city's historic character and significance. Certain relief from the requirements of the Florida Building Code and FEMA regulations are also available to designated Local Historic Landmarks, as are tax incentives such as the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption.

CONSISTENCY WITH ST. PETERSBURG'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND EXISTING AND FUTURE LAND USE PLANS

The proposed Local Historic Landmark designation is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, relating to the protection, use and adaptive reuse of historic buildings. The proposed Local Historic Landmark designation will not affect the FLUM or zoning designations, nor will it significantly constrain any existing or future plans for the development of the City. The proposed local landmark designation is consistent with the following:

OBJECTIVE LU10: The historic resources locally designated by the St. Petersburg City Council and the commission designated in the LDRs, shall be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan map series at the time of original adoption or through

the amendment process and protected from development and redevelopment activities consistent with the provisions of the Historic Preservation Element and the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Policy LU10.1 Decisions regarding the designation of historic resources shall be based on the criteria and policies outlined in the Historic Preservation Ordinance and the Historic Preservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy HP2.3 The City shall provide technical assistance to applications for designation of historic structures and districts.

Policy HP2.6 Decisions regarding the designation of historic resources shall be based on National Register eligibility criteria and policies outlined in the Historic Preservation Ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan.

The subject property has a Future Land Use Plan designation of CBD (Central Business District) and is zoned DC-2 (Downtown Center-2) on the City's Official Zoning Map. Maximum density in all DC categories is limited by Floor Area Ratio (FAR), rather than units per acre. CBD designation allows a mixture of high-intensity retail, office, industrial, service, and residential uses up to a FAR of 4.0 and a net residential density not to exceed the maximum allowable in the land development regulations. There are no known plans at the time of this report to change the allowable uses of the subject property, or those properties that border it.

This district comprises St. Petersburg's historic and original downtown core, and was platted to reflect the pedestrian-oriented scale that was necessary and typical of urban centers before mainstream automobile ownership. Redevelopment of properties in the surrounding area has been increasing over the past several years as part of a prospering local economy and booming real estate market. A number of extant historic buildings within this district have also been preserved, both with and without the protection of a Local Historic Landmark designation.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends **APPROVAL** of the request to designate the Burnside House, located at 136 Fifth Avenue North, as a Local Historic Landmark, thereby referring the application to City Council for first and second reading and public hearing.

RESOURCES

City of St. Petersburg, Florida. Property Card for 136 5th Ave. N. On file, City of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Dunlap, A.R. "Election of Mrs. C.G. Edwards recalls fact Virginia Burnside was City Commissioner in 1920." *St. Petersburg Times*, May 17, 1951.

Evening Independent. "Ladies of Local Red Cross Asked to Give Up All Social Functions." May 30, 1917.

Evening Independent. "Miss Mary W. Duckering Arrived from Boston..." September 10, 1921.

Poppeliers, John, S. Allen Chambers, Jr., and Nancy B. Schwartz. *What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1983.

Sanborn Map Company. *St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida* [map]. 1918. ProQuest, LLC: 2016.

Sanborn Map Company. *St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida* [map]. 1952. ProQuest, LLC: 2016.

Spokane Daily Chronicle. "Women Doctors Find Prejudice Against Feminine Surgeons Fast Disappearing." October 27, 1931.

St. Petersburg Times. "Local Sales Remain Brisk; Five Deals Total \$80,000." July 11, 1946.

St. Petersburg Times. "Woman Surgeon Known Here Dies." October 30, 1951.

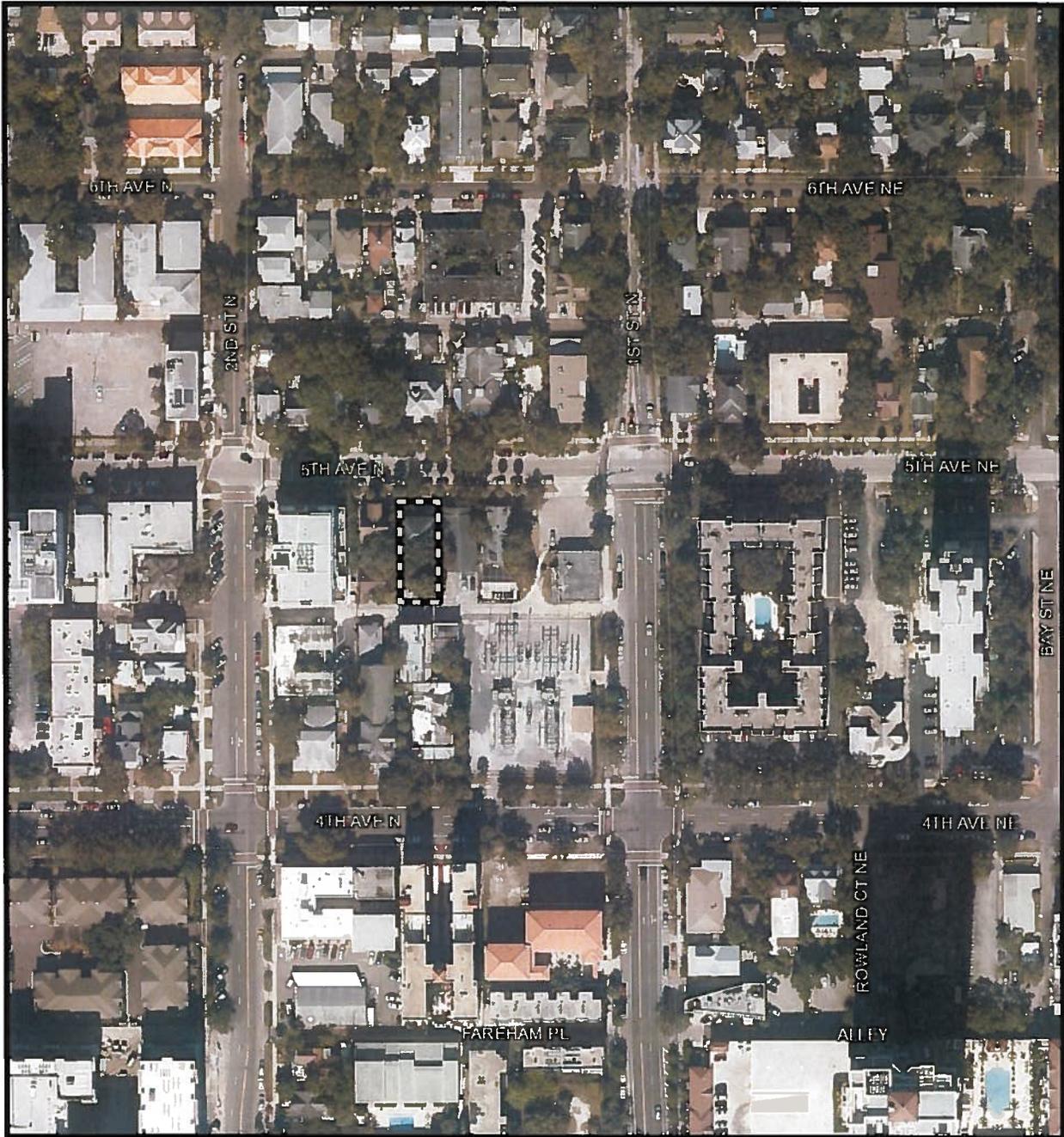
"United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MNB4-CN3>).

"United States Census, 1930." database with images. *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XQ5B-YFR> :).

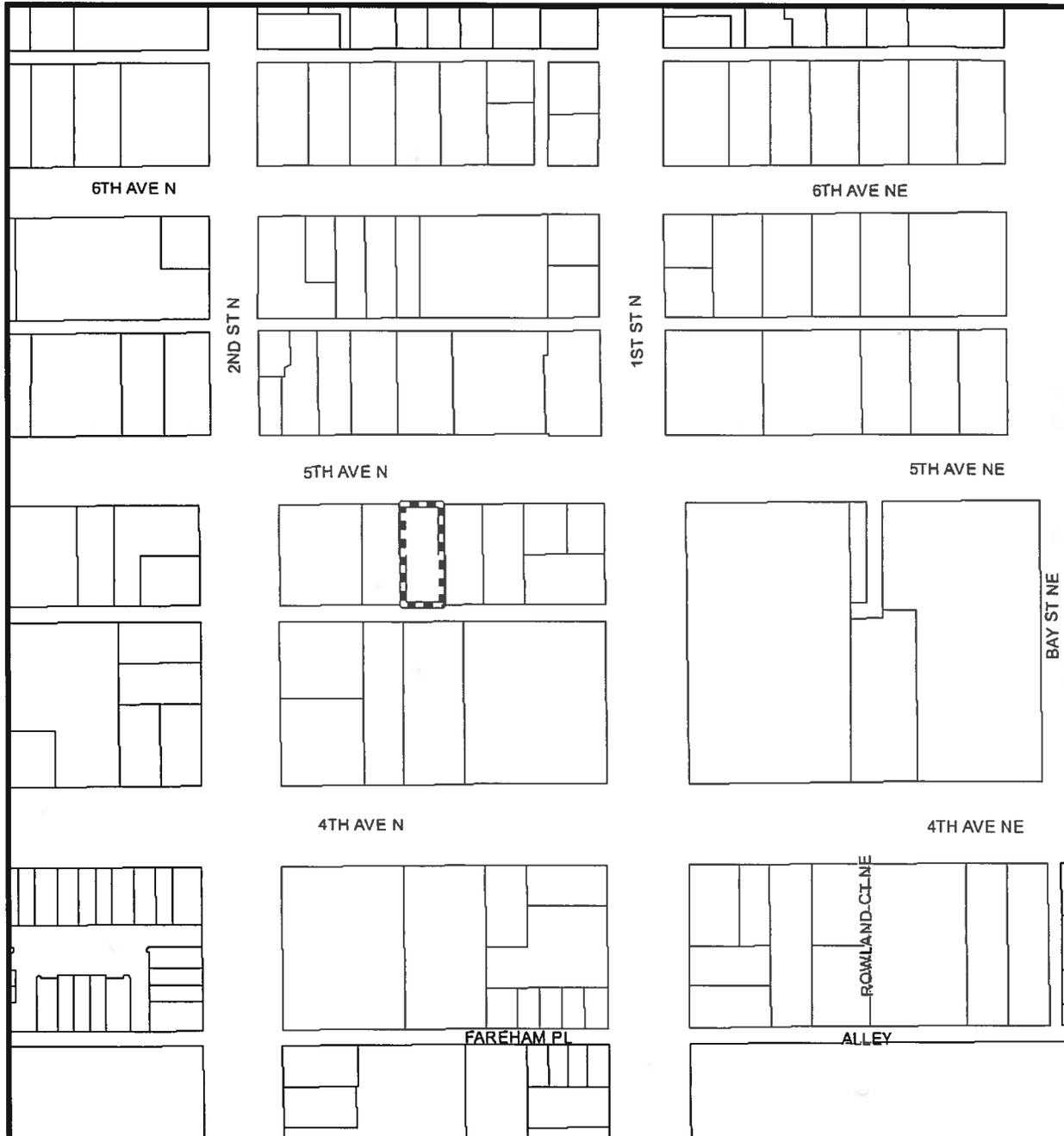
"United States Census, 1940." database with images/ *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K4VZ-SB9>).

Wirtzfeld, Debrah A. "The History of Women in Surgery." *PubMed Central*. 2009. Accessed online at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2724816/>.

APPENDIX A: AERIAL AND STREET MAPS



Community Planning and Preservation Commission		 N NOT TO SCALE
136 5th Avenue North		
AREA TO BE APPROVED, SHOWN IN 	CASE NUMBER 16-90300005	



Community Planning and Preservation Commission

136 5th Avenue North

**AREA TO BE APPROVED,
SHOWN IN** 

**CASE NUMBER
16-90300005**



APPENDIX B: DESIGNATION APPLICATION

City of St. Petersburg
Division of Urban Planning, Design,
and Historic Preservation

7
[
[
[subject

Local Landmark Designation Application

1. NAME AND LOCATION OF PROPERTY

historic name John L. Burnside House

other names/site Miss Mary Duckering House, 8Pi10453
number

address 136 Fifth Avenue North

historic address 136 Fifth Avenue North

2. PROPERTY OWNER(S) NAME AND ADDRESS

name Fuel Investment & Development II LLC

street and 1 Tampa City Center #2505
number

city or town Tampa state FL zip 333602
code

phone number _____ e-mail _____

3. NOMINATION PREPARED BY

name/title Howard Ferebee Hansen

organization St. Petersburg Preservation

street and P. O. Box 838
number

city or town St. Pete state Florida zip code 33703

phone number 727-323-1351 (w) 727-323-1351 e-mail fenford1@gmail.com
(h)

date prepared 1 May signature 
2016

4. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Describe boundary line encompassing all man-made and natural resources to be included in designation (general legal description or survey). Attach map delimiting proposed boundary. (Use continuation sheet if necessary)

Lot 5 of Block 3 of the Revised Map of St. Petersburg as recorded in Plat Book 1, page 49 of the official records of Hillsborough Co. Florida of which Pinellas County was formerly a part.

This lot constitutes the boundary of this historic resource from the time of its construction till 2016.

5. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage of property	less than 1 acre (50'X123')
property identification number	19-31-17-74466-003-00 50

Burnside -Duckering House
Name of Property

6. FUNCTION OR USE

<u>Historic Functions</u>	<u>Current Functions</u>
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling	vacant
DOMESTIC/ multi-family	

7. DESCRIPTION

<u>Architectural Classification</u> (See Appendix A for list)	<u>Materials</u>
Prairie style	concrete block,

wood

stucco

Narrative Description

On one or more continuation sheets describe the historic and existing condition of the property use conveying the following information: original location and setting; natural features; pre-historic man-made features; subdivision design; description of surrounding buildings; major alterations and present appearance; interior appearance;

NEIGHBORHOOD SETTING

The Burnside-Duckering House is located on Block 3 at the northern edge of the original plat of St. Petersburg that was surveyed in 1888. Fifth Avenue North a 100' r.o.w. street runs along the northern boundary of this original plat. This block is situated on a sandy ridge about 10' above sea level and lies about 1000' west of the original shoreline of Tampa Bay which since circa 1905 became Beach Drive NE. This northeastern section of the original town plat had sparse development before the first decade of the 20th century. Between 1905 and 1916 it became a residential neighborhood favored by the wealthy citizens and winter visitors because of its proximity to the waterfront and isolation from the congestion of the nearby downtown commercial district. The majority of the buildings in this area were built before the construction hiatus of 1917 caused by the Great War. These buildings were all residential, a combination of detached single family homes, tourist rental cottages, apartment buildings, and small winter tourist hotels. Generally they were of frame construction and one or two stories high. By the close of the Florida Land Boom in 1926 this neighborhood was "built out". By the late 1920s and through the 1930s many of the single family homes were converted into small apartment buildings and boarding houses because the more affluent residents had moved north to the more fashionable new neighborhoods of the Old Northeast and Snell Isle. During the 1980s the city drastically changed the zoning of this area designating it "Central Business District 2" that granted high density construction and building heights to these properties. This triggered the demolition of many of the older structures and the construction of high-rise condominiums. This area forms the northeastern corner of the National Register of Historic Places, Downtown St. Petersburg Historic District (8PI10648) which was enacted in 2004 to help preserve the remaining historic resources here.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The Burnside-Duckering House was built on a 50' X 123' lot in the center of Block 3 of the Rev. Map of St. Petersburg. The house fronts north onto Fifth Avenue North which is a 100' right of way street, the rear (south) of the property faces a 20' wide alley, adjacent to the east is a one story frame bungalow, and adjacent to the west is a two story frame and stucco bungalow. The house is two stories high, an irregular rectangle in plan. about 40' wide (E-W) and 44' long (N-S) containing about 3,254 square feet. The house is set back about 10' from the 5th Ave sidewalk and has about 5' setbacks from side property lines. A two story frame garage/ apartment occupies the SE corner of the lot with its doors facing the alley. There are no other ancillary buildings, structures, or objects on the lot. The public sidewalk along 5th Ave. is of hex-blocks, 2 mature Sabal palmettos occupy the 5th Ave. r.o.w. which are part of a historic row of such palms planted on both sides of 5th Ave. before 1920 that extends from Beach Drive to 2nd St. N. A hex-block walkway leads from the sidewalk to its front porch. A large old oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and a large mango tree occupy the rear garden, there are no historic fences or walls observed on the property.

BUILDING

The foundation is a poured in place concrete footing surmounted by a 24" high continuous concrete block foundation wall that has rectangular vent holes. The house's structural systems are load bearing exterior concrete block walls on the ground (first) floor and load bearing balloon frame wood exterior walls that are finished with wood lath and concrete stucco with a smooth sand finish on the first (second) floor. These stucco walls have ornamental 4" wide vertical wooden upright boards spaced at regular intervals to mimic "half-timbering". Interior floors throughout are wood joists and strip wood flooring. Interior walls and ceilings are finished in plaster. The exterior concrete block walls are laid in alternating courses of about 8" high blocks with about 4" blocks and the horizontal mortar joints are scored and indented while vertical joints are flush. The chimney which is located on the exterior east side of the house is of identical material and finish. The windows of the house are wood double hung sashes with 9 lights in upper sash and 1 light in lower sash. Exterior and interior window surrounds and sills are wood with simple detail. The front porch- The roof is of hip form made of wood trusses and has widely projecting eaves with wood soffits and fascia. the original roofing surface material is unknown, but likely was asphalt composition shingles. The front porch is one story with a similar hip roof to the house. The west end of the front porch is enclosed to form a "sun room" and has banks of windows. The open porch has a concrete apron wall about 30" high of concrete blocks identical to the house with two slightly projecting piers that support paired wood "Tuscan" style pillars that support the simple roof cornice. The front door is simple wood and flanked by sidelights. The porch floor is wood, but the steps are concrete.

ALTERATIONS

Historic (pre 1966) alterations- A steel fire escape and alteration of a window to form access door was permitted to owner, James Paul in 1956, located on rear (south) facade. Interior partition alterations made at this time to convert the house into rental apartments.

Modern (post 1966) alterations- 1986- demolition of the rear garage/ apartment building.

SOURCES

Site inspection of the exterior of 136 5th Ave. N. on 20 Apr. 2016 by Howard Ferebee Hansen

City of St. Petersburg "Property Card" 136 5th Ave. N.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, maps; 1908, 1913, 1918, and 1923.

8. NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	<u>Resource Type</u>	Contributing resources previously listed on the National Register or Local Register
1	0	Buildings	8Pi10453 is a contributing structure to St. Petersburg Downtown Historic District (2004) 8PI10648
0	0	Sites	
0	0	Structures	
0	0	Objects	Number of multiple property listings N.A.
1	0	Total	

9. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria for Significance

(mark one or more boxes for the appropriate criteria)

- Its value is a significant reminder of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the City, state, or nation.
- Its location is the site of a significant local, state, or national event.
- X It is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the City, state, or nation.
- It is identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose work has influenced the development of the City, state, or nation.
- X Its value as a building is recognized for the quality of its architecture, and it retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.
- X It has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.
- Its character is a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration, or continuity or sites, buildings, objects or structures united in past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development.
- Its character is an established and geographically definable neighborhood, united in culture, architectural style or physical plan and development.
- It has contributed, or is likely to contribute, information important to the prehistory or history of the City, state, or nation.

Areas of Significance

(see Attachment B for detailed list of categories)

architecture

social history

Period of Significance

1916 to 1946

Significant Dates (date constructed & altered)

1916

Significant Person(s)

Virginia Burnside (Mrs. John L.
Burnside)

Dr. Florenece A. Duckering MD

Cultural Affiliation/Historic Period

20th century

Builder

unknown

Architect

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property as it relates to the above criteria and information on one or more continuation sheets. Include biographical data on significant person(s), builder and architect, if known. Please use parenthetical notations, footnotes or endnotes for citations of work used.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Burnside-Duckering House, located at 136 Fifth Avenue North, meets three of the nine criteria necessary for designating historic properties listed in Section 16-525(d) of the City of St. Petersburg Code of Ordinances. These criteria are; (3) It is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the City, state, or nation; (5) Its value as a building is recognized for the quality of its architecture, and it retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance; (6) It has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.

Under Criterion (3), the property is significant as the home of Virginia C. Burnside the first female city commissioner of St. Petersburg elected to office in 1920 and also the winter residence of Dr. Florence W. Duckering the first female surgeon to be admitted to the American College of Surgeons in 1913. Under Criteria (5) and (6) the house is significant as an important local example of the Prairie style of architecture that retains its original appearance and historic integrity.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORIC CONTEXT

During the First Boom Period in St. Petersburg, 1909-1914, the city of St. Petersburg experienced dramatic population growth and real estate development in the brief period beginning in 1909 and ending with the outbreak of World War I. The population was 4,500 in the 1910 Federal Census and rose to 14,237 in the 1920 Census, an increase of 245%. The county's property tax evaluation for the city in 1911 was \$3,546,130 and it grew to \$8,977,930 in 1915 (Fuller, Walter, *St. Petersburg and its People* (1972) p. 142). In 1909 local voters approved a large municipal bond issuance that provided for major upgrades to the potable water, sewer system, and brick paving of city streets (Grismer, Karl, *The Story of St. Petersburg* (1948) p. 120). The City's western municipal limits in 1907 were at 7th Street N., jogging at Central Ave. to 12th St. S., but by 1914 the City stretched to Boca Ciega Bay (Fuller 1972:132). The city's trolley system grew from 3 miles in 1909 to 23 miles by 1917 (Arsenault, Raymond, *St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream 1888- 1950* (1988) p. 136). This explosive growth was the result of residential real estate subdivision projects created by local developers; H. Walter Fuller, Noel Mitchell, Perry Snell, and many smaller speculators (Arsenault 1988: 136). The expansion was in all directions from original plat of

the town, bounded roughly by 5th Avenues North and South, west to 12th Street, and followed new streetcar lines largely financed by the private developers. The buyers of these 22,000 lots that existed in 1914 (Fuller 1972:131) were the seasonal winter tourists who were lured to the city in ever increasing numbers by a sophisticated national advertising campaign. An estimate of the 1910-1911 tourist season made by the Board of Trade, claimed 4,518 seasonal visitors registered at their welcome station, but this was likely only 50% of the real total. The majority came from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and New York (Evening Independent 7 Mar. 1911, p.6). A major difference between this real estate boom and the larger one of 1920 to 1926, was the emphasis on selling suburban houses versus selling vacant lots. These houses were intended as winter homes to be used as investment rentals until the owners retired to St. Petersburg. A brisk business for both residential and commercial properties began in the winter of 1908-1909. Each winter thereafter the demand increased. By the winter of 1912-1913 it became a "boomlet of the super- dooper variety" (Fuller 1972:131). This boom was short lived, by the fall of 1913 it began to taper off and during the early months of 1914 real estate advertising almost disappeared from the newspapers. The market had been oversold and there was a public fear that the country seemed headed for another depression. The outbreak of World War I in July 1914 completely stopped the boom. Although tourism remained strong during the 1914-1915 tourist season, buyers became reluctant to invest in vacation homes and bankers became stingy in extending more credit to the developers. There was no "crash" in the local real estate market, home prices and tax evaluations did not deflate, but cash flow problems crippled the developers who had to bide their time till the end of war in 1918 (Grismer 1948:235-6).

HISTORY OF 136 5th Avenue North

The Burnside-Duckering House is located on Lot 5 of Block 3 of the Revised Map of St. Petersburg which was surveyed originally in 1888 and later revised. Fifth Avenue North was the northern boundary of the town's first subdivision and development did not occur here until the first decade of the 20th century. The 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. map of this block shows no buildings or structures along its northern half that fronts onto Fifth Avenue North. The Thornton's Addition subdivision on the north side of Fifth Avenue in this block had a similar pattern of development. Construction in this area began with St. Petersburg's first real estate boom cycle that occurred from 1909 until 1915.

The original city "Property Card" is lost so no reliable date of construction or names of contractor and architect survive, however the first surviving card notes; "1914, 1-concrete & frame res. 8 rooms, 5 baths, 2- 2 story frame gar. apt." This house does not appear on the 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. map of this block. the house does not appear in the 1916 city directory which was field verified in late 1915. The house does appear in the 1918 city directory as the residence of John L. Burnside and his wife, Virginia. The 1916 city directory lists John and Virginia Burnside as occupants of 556 Beach Dr. NE (the landmark Jones-Laughner House). These data suggest a construction date between 1914 and 1916. The Burnside's are listed in the 1920 federal census at this address, John L. Burnside a white married male aged 62, born in Ohio, a commercial salesman of hats. Virginia Burnside a white married female aged 61, born in Illinois, no occupation. Also in the household was Hallie Clark a negro widowed female aged 46, born in Florida, servant. Four lodgers are listed; Mary Smith aged 70, Anne Boyce aged 44, Caroline Roster aged 53, and Samuel B. vanArsdale aged 46 (1920 U. S. Census, St. Petersburg). The presence of the four lodgers shows that Virginia was running a boarding house while her husband was away on business trips. A 1919 newspaper article says; "John Burnside of 136 5th Avenue North arrived home yesterday after an absence of three months on a business trip. He found on arrival, that Mrs. Burnside had been ill for several days with the influenza, but she is now better. Mr. Burnside will be here at least three months before going north." (*St. Petersburg Evening Independent*". 24 Dec. 1919, p. 5). The Burnside's sold their house in 1921 to Mary Duckering and they moved to a house at 225 4th St. N. (now demolished) and lived there through her death in 1924. After this date John L. Burnside is not listed in local city directories (R.L. Polk, St. Petersburg City Directory 1921/2, 1923, 1924, 1925, and 1926, passim).

"Miss Mary Duckering arrived from Boston yesterday to make St. Petersburg her home. Miss Duckering and her sister spent last winter here and before leaving for Boston they bought from Lew B. Brown the handsome home at 136 Fifth Avenue North formerly occupied by Mr. & Mrs. John L. Burnside. Miss Duckering will remodel the house and refurnish it for the winter season." (*St. Petersburg Evening Independent*", 10 Sep. 1921, p. 5). City directory listings indicate that Mary Duckering remained in this house until 1946 when it was occupied by a new owner, James H. Paul a clerk at the Alexander Hotel on Central Avenue. Paul remained in the house through 1970. In 1980 it was owned by Loreny Wycaver, in 1990 it is listed as "On the Avenue Antiques" retail shop and with rental apartments (R. L. Polk, St. Petersburg City Directory 1920 to 1990, passim).

The property was sold on 11 Dec. 2000 by Timothy V. Klein and Shirley his wife to Charles W. Ross for \$240,000. The property was sold on 6 Dec. 2005 to Fuel Development & Investment II LLC by Harpo Holding Inc. for \$800,000 (Pinellas Co. Tax Assessor website, retrieved 24 Apr. 2016). The property has been vacant and

deteriorating since about 2008 awaiting planned demolition to create a site for a 20 story hotel project that never happened.

BIOGRAPHY OF VIRGINIA CHEW BURNSIDE (1858 -1924)

Mary Virginia Chew Wilson was born on 9 Oct. 1858 at Griggsville, Illinois to Andrew Wilson (b. 1820 Boston, MA) and his wife, Almyra Chew (b. 1830 Georgetown, D.C.) (Florida Deaths 1877- 1939, database at Familysearch.org based on FL Death Certificate data. retrieved 26 Apr. 2016). The 1850 and 1860 federal census of Pike Co. IL shows that Andrew Wilson and Almyra residing in this county.

An article in a women's suffrage magazine states; "Mrs. John Burnside, city commissioner of St. Petersburg, Florida has the proud distinction of being the first woman commissioner ever elected south of Mason Dixon's Line. St. Petersburg gave its women municipal suffrage in April 1919. After a splendid campaign, Mrs. Burnside was elected by a good majority and assumed office July 1, 1920, almost two months before the 19th Amendment was ratified."

"Virginia Chew Burnside was born in Greggsville, Ill., educated at Illinois State Womens' College and Oxford University. She is the wife of a retired Chicago businessman and a grandmother. As president of the Red Cross, she won the hearts of the people during the war..." "During her career as commissioner, she worked for the city's better drainage and paving program, extension of the park system, public waterfront improvement, and municipally owned streetcars. She is now furthering efforts for a municipal lighting system and kindergartens. She is also an active member of the League of Women Voters. The women of St. Petersburg are petitioning mrs. Burnside to run for re-election in April." ("The Woman's Journal", vol. 6, 8 Apr. 1922, p. 13).

Virginia Burnside died on 29 Apr. 1924 at St. Petersburg aged 66, she was buried at Royal Palm Cemetery on 4 May 1924. John L. Burnside died at St. Petersburg on 2 Jan. 1935 and was buried next to his wife on 4 Jan. 1935 (ibid. Fl. Deaths).

BIOGRAPHY OF MARY W. DUCKERING (1865-1958) and DR FLORENCE W. DUCKERING MD (1869 -1951)

Mary West Duckering was born in 1865 and Florence West Duckering born in 1869 they were the daughters of William Duckering (b. 1824) and his wife, Fanny of York, Yorkshire, UK. Mary Duckering immigrated to Boston, MA in 1890 and lived with her elder brother, Dr. William B. Duckering MD. She is listed in the 1900 and 1910 federal census as a single woman, not working "with her own income" living in William's household. Mary Duckering moved to St. Petersburg to become a permanent

resident in 1921. She and Florence purchased a house at 136 5th Ave. N. When Dr. Florence Duckering retired from practice in 1946 the sisters sold the house on 5th Avenue and moved to 506 21st Avenue NE.

“Woman Surgeon Known Here Dies - Dr. Florence West Duckering, 82, first woman member of the American College of Surgeons in 1913 died last Wednesday at her summer home in Hancock, NH. She was a winter resident here for years. Born in England, she received her nursing education there and came to Boston in 1895. She graduated from Tufts Medical School in 1901, interned at the Massachusetts Womens' Hospital and was then resident surgeon there two years. Later she joined the surgical staff of the New England Hospital for Women as assistant and later senior surgeon. She practiced medicine till 1946 when she retired to St. Petersburg and lived with her sister Miss Mary Duckering. Burial will be in Boston.” (“St. Petersburg Times”, 30 Oct. 1951, p. 10 ‘Woman Surgeon Known Here Dies’).

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Burnside -Duckering House is a good example of a Prairie style single family detached residence that has very few modern alterations. Prairie style building are rare in the city of St. Petersburg and this is one of the few remaining structures of this type within the St. Petersburg Downtown Historic District (2004) 8Pi10648. The house at 335 Lang Court (contributing building to local landmark Lang Bungalow Court District HPC- 14-90300002) is the other surviving building of this style within the Downtown Historic District. And houses of this type are also scarce in other city historic districts, the best examples being the Dr. Green House & Sanitorium in Roser Park, 250 Park St. N., and the Henry H. Dupont residence at 600 6th St. N. within the National Register Round Lake Historic District. The reason for this scarcity of Prairie style houses is the short duration of this style's popularity which lasted from 1900 till 1914.

The Prairie style is an American outgrowth of the Arts and Crafts Movement that had its origin with the Chicago School of architects whose founder was Louis Sullivan. The most famous exponent of this style was Frank Lloyd Wright. The Prairie style was inspired by the most avant-garde adherents of European Arts & Crafts architecture, especially the works of the Vienna Secession architects who were turning away from all superfluous ornament to a Modernist aesthetic. The 1910 essay by Adolf Loos “Ornament and Crime” summarizes the philosophy of this group. Even in the affluent turn of the century suburbs of Chicago this style was not common, it struck the general public of this era as a radical new form of architecture and it was appreciated mainly by an audience of wealthy clients who could display their sophistication with a trendy novel residence. This reluctance of the public to embrace modern domestic architectural styles was a trend that spanned the entire 20th century. However, the publishers of American architectural plan books and

magazines did offer plans of single family homes in this style during the first decades of the 20th century.

Houses designed in the Prairie style exhibit key design elements; a horizontal emphasis in massing and appearance, wide eaved hip or flat roofs, windows organized into banks, wide one story porches that extend from the main block of the house, the use of simple water and string courses to emphasize the horizontality of the facades, and a lack of ornamental details.

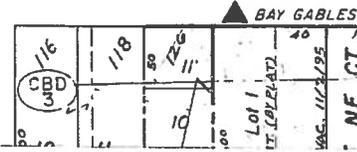
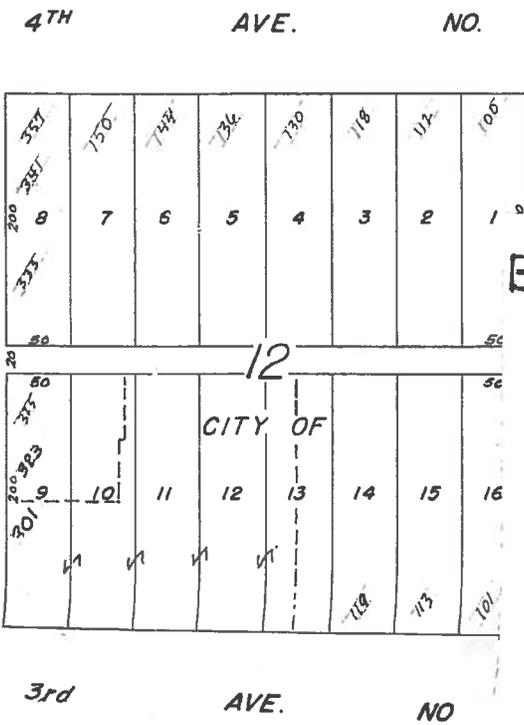
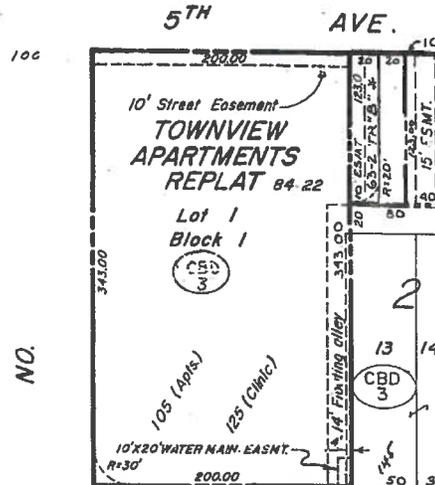
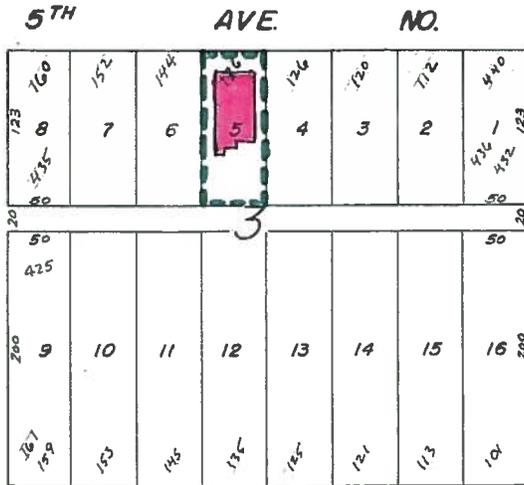
10. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please list bibliographical references.

(Please see contextual source citations)

MAP

E-6



BURNSIDE DUCKERING HOUSE

BOUNDARY MAP

denotes bounds

Scale 1" = 100'

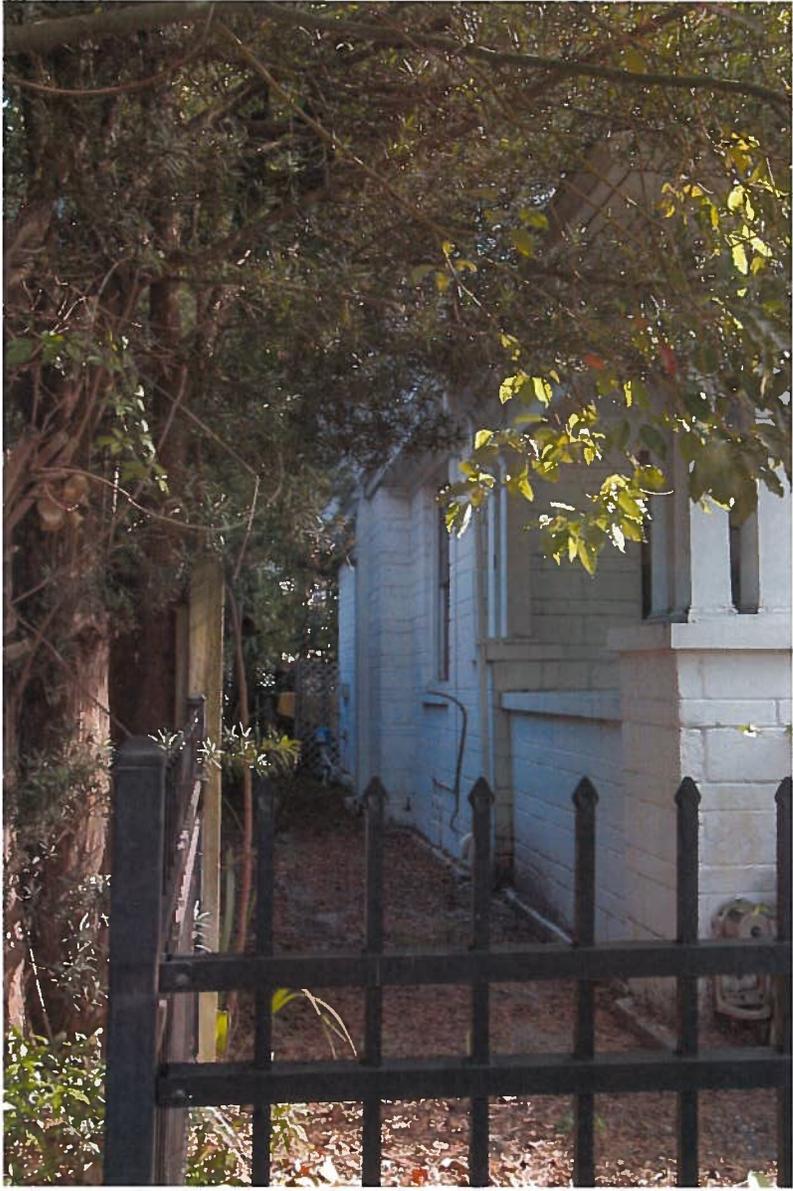
1365TH AVE. N

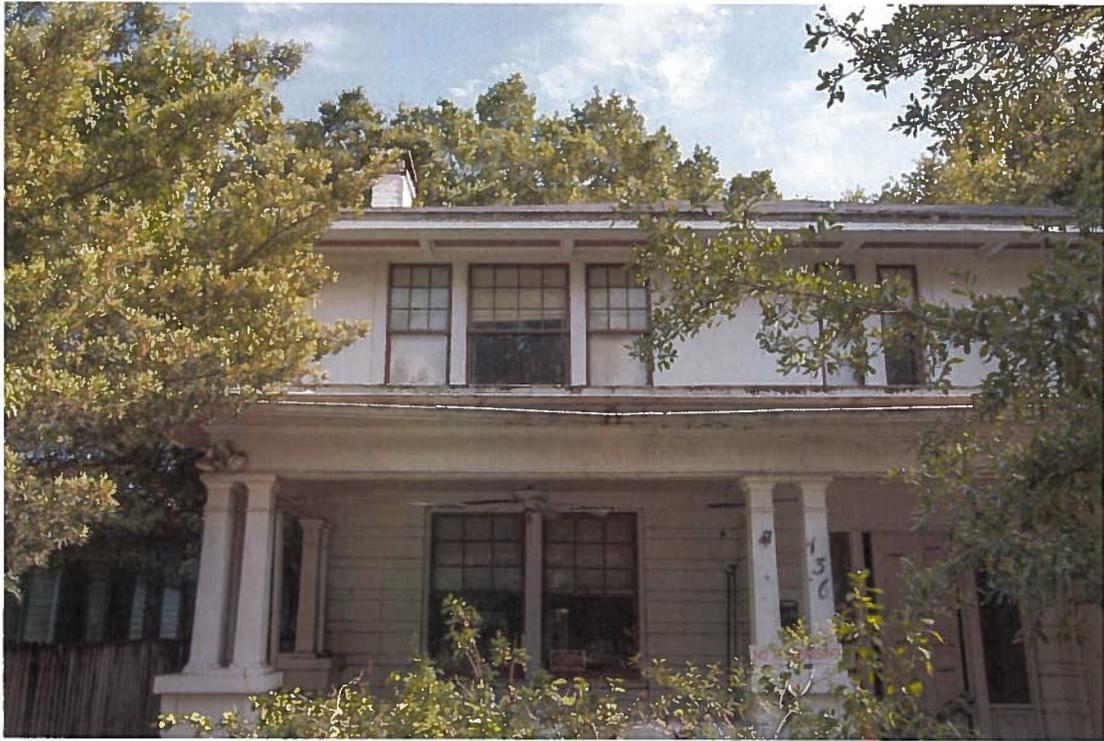


PHOTOS









APPENDIX C: ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Photograph 1: Front (north) entrance, facing southwest



Photograph 2: Front porch, facing southwest



Photograph 3: North façade



Photograph 4: North façade



Photograph 5: Open eastern side of front porch, facing south



Photograph 6: Rear (south) elevation, facing northeast

APPENDIX D: PUBLIC COMMENT

Three comments in opposition of designation (attached, to follow) and none in support have been received as of January 3, 2017.

**In re Historical Landmark Designation Applications:
118, 126, 136, 142, and 142 ½ 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida**

**HPC 16-90300003
HPC 16-90300004
HPC 16-90300005
HPC 16-90300006**

**AFFIDAVIT OF CHANDRESH S. SARAIYA
AS MANAGER OF SUBURBAN FEDERAL PROPERTY, LLC**

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Chandresh S. Saraiya, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. This affidavit is submitted in opposition to the Local Landmark Designation Applications (together, the "Applications") filed by St. Petersburg Preservation for the contiguous parcels of property located at 118, 126, 136, 142, and 142 ½ 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida (together, the "Subject Property"), copies of which are attached hereto as Composite Exhibit "A."

2. My name is Chandresh S. Saraiya, I am over the age of eighteen years old, and I am the Manager of Suburban Federal Property, LLC ("Suburban"), the seventy percent (70%) owner of Fuel Investment & Development II, LLC ("FID II"). Suburban was ten percent (10%) owner of FID II in 2006, but due to performance issues with the initial developer, Suburban ended up acquiring all of the developer's interest and is now seventy percent (70%) owner of FID II.

3. FID II is the owner of the Subject Property, having purchased all applicable parcels between December 2005 and April 2006 for a total of \$3,100,000, and an additional two contiguous parcels of property in November 2006 for \$3,500,000, representing a total purchase price of \$6,600,000.

4. In addition to being the majority owner in FID II, Suburban is a co-managing member of FID II. FID II has an additional three (3) co-managing members, who have not been consulted in the drafting of this Affidavit. I am unaware of whether or not any of the other co-managing members have received notice of the Applications.

5. The Applications were submitted on May 1, 2016 by Howard Ferebee Hansen of St. Petersburg Preservation ("St. Pete Preservation"), a non-profit organization whose mission is described as educating the public about local historic architecture resources, landmarking or assisting in the landmarking of "deserving" sites and structures, and preserving sites and structures previously landmarked.

6. St. Pete Preservation has no ownership or other interest in the Subject Property, and, to the best of my knowledge, submitted the Applications without any notice to or communication with any representative of FID II.

7. FID II purchased the Subject Property in order to redevelop the same and take a city block that has, even as acknowledged by the Applications, been blighted by neglect and crime.

8. During my involvement with the Subject Property as Manager of the majority owner and otherwise, I was unaware of any potential historical landmarks on any of the Subject Property.

9. After purchase of the Subject Property, FID II submitted applications for approval of two (2) separate projects, each of which were rejected by the City of St. Petersburg. In addition to issues with zoning and approval of FID II's development projects, and in large part because of the same, FID II experienced financial difficulties which resulted in (a) default on its

obligations to its lenders, (b) initiation of foreclosure on the Subject Property, and (c) two (2) bankruptcy proceedings.

10. As a result of these issues, the Subject Property has been the subject of a foreclosure action styled First Street and Fifth Avenue, LLC v. Fuel Investment & Development II, LLC, Case No. 09-16378-CI-15 (the "Foreclosure Action"), which has been pending before the Circuit Court for the Sixth Judicial Circuit in and for Pinellas County, Florida (the "State Court") since August 15, 2009.

11. The Foreclosure Action has been pending for more than seven (7) years and has prevented any potential development of the Subject Property while it remains in limbo. The senior mortgage holder of the property, First Street and Fifth Avenue, LLC, holds a lien on the Subject Property in an amount exceeding \$10,000,000.

12. FID II has been dissolved and non-operational since at least September 27, 2013.

13. As a result of the years of limbo and uncertainty created by the Foreclosure Action and lack of financial resources of FID II, the Subject Property has fallen further into disrepair.

14. On May 11, 2016, the City of St. Petersburg Code Enforcement department ("Code Enforcement") sent out two (2) notices of their intent to seek demolition of portions of the Subject Property (the "Demolition Notices"), copies of which are attached hereto as Composite Exhibit "B."

15. I have personally walked the Subject Property with Code Enforcement in order to gain a better understanding of the issues associated with the Demolition Notices and other code enforcement violations.

16. On November 23, 2016, after hearings on August 22, 2016, and November 4, 2016, the State Court appointed Larry S. Hyman, CPA (the "Receiver") as receiver over the Subject Property in order to address the issues identified in the Demolition Notices, delinquent taxes, and other issues of the Subject Property.

17. Accordingly, the Receiver is in control of the Subject Property for the balance of the Foreclosure Action or until otherwise discharged by the State Court.

18. If the Applications are successful, the value of the Subject Property will be severely impaired and it is unlikely that any revitalization or improvement to the Subject Property will take place.

19. This will, in effect, leave half of a block in downtown St. Petersburg in a state of neglect that impacts the surrounding community, particularly where downtown St. Petersburg is in the middle of a redevelopment and revitalization effort that involves new construction and an influx of residents and businesses.

20. It would require an enormous amount of resources in order to clear the Demolition Notices and other Code Enforcement violations, and even more resources would be required in order to restore the Subject Property to even the most minimal of habitable condition.

21. If there is no possibility for future development on the Subject Property due to a Local Landmark status, it is unlikely that any entity would be willing to commit the appropriate resources in order to correct or maintain the Subject Property.

22. It is my understanding that the purpose of the City of St. Petersburg Code on "Preservation of Historic Properties" (Sec. 16.30.070.2) includes stabilizing and improving property values "in historic districts and in the City as a whole" (16.30.070.2.1.B.3), strengthening the economy of the City (16.30.070.2.1.B.5), and enhancing the "visual and

aesthetic character, diversity and interest of the City” (16.30.070.2.1.B.7). I do not believe that any of these purposes are furthered by the designation of the Subject Property as local landmarks.

23. At the very least, it is incumbent upon the City of St. Petersburg to delay any decision of the Historic Preservation committee to delay consideration of any of the Applications until the Foreclosure Action is resolved and a new and solvent owner of the Subject Property is identified to allow full due process to the owner.

24. I did not receive any formal notice of the Applications or any steps to consider the same by the City of St. Petersburg, and only received notice through proceedings involving appointment of the Receiver in the Foreclosure Action.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2017.

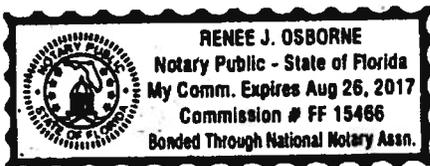


CHANDRESH S. SARAIYA

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this 3rd day of January, 2017, by Chandresh S. Saraiya, Manager of Suburban Federal Property, LLC, a Florida limited liability company. He is personally known to me or has produced personally as identification.





Notary Public, State at Large
Serial Number and Seal

Exhibit “A”

To prevent redundancy within this packet, please refer to **Appendix B: Designation Application**.

Exhibit “B”



codes compliance assistance department
post office box 2842 st. petersburg, florida 33731-2842

DEMOLITION VIOLATION NOTICE

Delivered via U.S. Certified and First Class Mail

May 11, 2016

FUEL INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT II LLC
201 N FRANKLIN ST STE 2505

TAMPA FL 336025800

DEMOLITION CASE NO: 15-00022138
RESPONSIBLE PARTY: FUEL INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT
PROPERTY IN VIOLATION: 118 5TH AVE N
REV MAP OF ST PETERSBURG
BLK 3, LOT 3

STRUCTURE (S) : DUPLEX & INGROUND POOL

This notice is directed to the above legal property owner(s) of record (responsible party) and additional copies are being provided to potentially interested parties including the person whose name and address appears at the top of this letter.

The property described above has been evaluated and determined to have conditions which appear to not comply with the City Code: **CHAPTER 8, DIV. 4, SEC. 8-263 - UNFIT OR UNSAFE DWELLINGS OR STRUCTURES**

The property owner or duly authorized representative **must obtain permits** to make repairs to the above referenced structure(s). The property owner may be required to retain a design professional to conduct an evaluation of the structure and produce a detailed written report with rehabilitation plans. A licensed contractor may also be required to provide a cost estimate and conduct the rehabilitation.

Permits to rehabilitate or to demolish the structure(s) must be obtained by June 20, 2016.

If these conditions are not corrected by the specified date, the City can take action to condemn and demolish the structure(s). All costs incurred in any condemnation action will be assessed as an interest bearing lien against the property. If additional time is needed to obtain permits for rehabilitation or demolition of the structure(s), contact me in writing with an outline of your plans before June 20, 2016.

Respectfully,

MAUREEN PALMER 892-5483 (Area Code 727), Building Demolition Coordinator



codes compliance assistance department
post office box 2842 st. petersburg, florida 33731-2842

DEMOLITION VIOLATION NOTICE

Delivered via U.S. Certified and First Class Mail

May 11, 2016

FUEL INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT II LLC
PO BOX 273944

TAMPA FL 336883944

DEMOLITION CASE NO: 16-00008671
RESPONSIBLE PARTY: FUEL INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT
PROPERTY IN VIOLATION: 142 5TH AVE N
REV MAP OF ST PETERSBURG
BLK 3, LOT 6

STRUCTURE(S) : SGL FAM RES & TRIPLEX

This notice is directed to the above legal property owner(s) of record (responsible party) and additional copies are being provided to potentially interested parties including the person whose name and address appears at the top of this letter.

The property described above has been evaluated and determined to have conditions which appear to not comply with the City Code: **CHAPTER 8, DIV. 4, SEC. 8-263 - UNFIT OR UNSAFE DWELLINGS OR STRUCTURES**

The property owner or duly authorized representative **must obtain permits** to make repairs to the above referenced structure(s). The property owner may be required to retain a design professional to conduct an evaluation of the structure and produce a detailed written report with rehabilitation plans. A licensed contractor may also be required to provide a cost estimate and conduct the rehabilitation.

Permits to rehabilitate or to demolish the structure(s) must be obtained by June 20, 2016.

If these conditions are not corrected by the specified date, the City can take action to condemn and demolish the structure(s). All costs incurred in any condemnation action will be assessed as an interest bearing lien against the property. If additional time is needed to obtain permits for rehabilitation or demolition of the structure(s), contact me in writing with an outline of your plans before June 20, 2016.

Respectfully,

MAUREEN PALMER 892-5486 (Area Code 727), Building Demolition Coordinator

**In re Historical Landmark Designation Applications:
118, 126, 136, 142, and 142 ½ 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida**

**HPC 16-90300003
HPC 16-90300004
HPC 16-90300005
HPC 16-90300006**

**AFFIDAVIT OF CHANDRESH S. SARAIYA AS
PRESIDENT OF FIRST STREET AND FIFTH AVENUE, LLC**

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Chandresh S. Saraiya, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. This affidavit is submitted in opposition to the Local Landmark Designation Applications (together, the "Applications") filed by St. Petersburg Preservation for the contiguous parcels of property located at 118, 126, 136, 142, and 142 ½ 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida (together, the "Subject Property"), copies of which are attached hereto as Composite Exhibit "A."

2. My name is Chandresh S. Saraiya, I am over the age of eighteen years old, and I am the President of First Street and Fifth Avenue, LLC ("FSFA"), the senior mortgage holder on the Subject Property, and the additional contiguous parcel located at 135 5th Avenue North.

3. FID II is the owner of the Subject Property, having purchased all applicable parcels between December 2005 and April 2006.

4. On November 6, 2006, FID II borrowed funds in the original principal amount of \$4,800,000, and executed a "Mortgage, Assignment of Leases and Rents and Security Agreement" (the "Mortgage") in favor of Broadway Bank, a copy of which is recorded in the Official Records of Pinellas County, Florida at Official Records Book 15475, beginning at 1387.

5. After a series of assignments that are a matter of public record, on September 28, 2012, FSFA received an "Assignment of Mortgage and Loan Documents" assigning all right,

title, and interest in the Mortgage to FSFA. Accordingly, FSFA is now the owner and holder of the Mortgage and the associated rights thereunder.

6. The Applications were submitted on May 1, 2016 by Howard Ferebee Hansen of St. Petersburg Preservation (“St. Pete Preservation”), a non-profit organization whose mission is described as educating the public about local historic architecture resources, landmarking or assisting in the landmarking of “deserving” sites and structures, and preserving sites and structures previously landmarked.

7. St. Pete Preservation has no ownership or other interest in the Subject Property, and, to the best of my knowledge, submitted the Applications without any notice to or communication with any representative of FSFA.

8. The Subject Property has been the subject of a foreclosure action styled First Street and Fifth Avenue, LLC v. Fuel Investment & Development II, LLC, Case No. 09-16378-CI-15 (the “Foreclosure Action”), which has been pending before the Circuit Court for the Sixth Judicial Circuit in and for Pinellas County, Florida (the “State Court”) since August 15, 2009.

9. The Foreclosure Action has been pending for more than seven (7) years and has prevented any potential development of the Subject Property while it remains in limbo.

10. During the pendency of the Foreclosure Action, the Subject Property, which was initially purchased as a development investment, has fallen further into disrepair.

11. On May 11, 2016, the City of St. Petersburg Code Enforcement department (“Code Enforcement”) sent out two (2) notices of their intent to seek demolition of portions of the Subject Property (the “Demolition Notices”), copies of which are attached hereto as Composite Exhibit “B.”

12. As a result of the Demolition Notices and other Code Enforcement violations, on July 29, 2016, FSFA filed "FSFA's Emergency Motion for Appointment of Receiver to Maintain and Safeguard Assets" in the Foreclosure Action, seeking an order of the State Court appointing a receiver over the Subject Property and the remaining contiguous parcel covered by the Mortgage in order to correct code enforcement violations and protect the Subject Property from further serious issues during the pendency of the Foreclosure Action.

13. On November 23, 2016, after hearings on August 22, 2016, and November 4, 2016, the State Court appointed Larry S. Hyman, CPA (the "Receiver") as receiver over the Subject Property in order to address the issues identified in the Demolition Notices, delinquent taxes, and other issues of the Subject Property.

14. Accordingly, the Receiver is in control of the Subject Property for the balance of the Foreclosure Action or until otherwise discharged by the State Court.

15. If the Subject Property is designated as a Local Landmark, the value of the Subject Property will be further impaired, impacting the Mortgage and the ability of FSFA to recover the sums due thereunder, which now exceeds \$10,000,000.

16. Further, if the Subject Property is limited in its uses, there will be a limited market for sale of the Subject Property, and limited uses for the same, after foreclosure or otherwise, and this will in effect leave half of a block in downtown St. Petersburg in a state of neglect that impacts the surrounding community.

17. At the very least, it is incumbent upon the City of St. Petersburg to delay consideration of any of the Applications until the Foreclosure Action is resolved and a new and solvent owner of the Subject Property is identified to allow full due process to the owner.

18. FSFA did not receive any formal notice of the Applications or any steps to consider the same by the City of St. Petersburg, and only first received notice of the same through the proceedings involving appointment of the Receiver in the Foreclosure Action.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

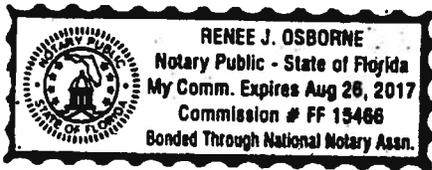
Dated this 3rd day of January, 2017.

Chandresh S. Saraiya
CHANDRESH S. SARAIYA

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this 3rd day of January, 2017, by Chandresh S. Saraiya, President of First Street and Fifth Avenue, LLC, a Florida limited liability company. He is personally known to me or has produced personally ✓ as identification.



Renee J. Osborne
Notary Public, State at Large
Serial Number and Seal

Exhibit “A”

To prevent redundancy within this packet, please refer to **Appendix B: Designation Application**.

Exhibit “B”



codes compliance assistance department
post office box 2842 st. petersburg, florida 33731-2842

DEMOLITION VIOLATION NOTICE

Delivered via U.S. Certified and First Class Mail

May 11, 2016

FIRST STREET & FIFTH AVE LLC
18608 MONACO AVE

LUTZ FL 33558

DEMOLITION CASE NO: 15-00022138
RESPONSIBLE PARTY: FUEL INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT
PROPERTY IN VIOLATION: 118 5TH AVE N
REV MAP OF ST PETERSBURG
BLK 3, LOT 3

STRUCTURE(S) : DUPLEX & INGROUND POOL

This notice is directed to the above legal property owner(s) of record (responsible party) and additional copies are being provided to potentially interested parties including the person whose name and address appears at the top of this letter.

The property described above has been evaluated and determined to have conditions which appear to not comply with the City Code: **CHAPTER 8, DIV. 4, SEC. 8-263 - UNFIT OR UNSAFE DWELLINGS OR STRUCTURES**

The property owner or duly authorized representative **must obtain permits** to make repairs to the above referenced structure(s). The property owner may be required to retain a design professional to conduct an evaluation of the structure and produce a detailed written report with rehabilitation plans. A licensed contractor may also be required to provide a cost estimate and conduct the rehabilitation.

Permits to rehabilitate or to demolish the structure(s) must be obtained by June 20, 2016.

If these conditions are not corrected by the specified date, the City can take action to condemn and demolish the structure(s). All costs incurred in any condemnation action will be assessed as an interest bearing lien against the property. If additional time is needed to obtain permits for rehabilitation or demolition of the structure(s), contact me in writing with an outline of your plans before June 20, 2016.

Respectfully,

MAUREEN PALMER 892-5438 (Area Code 827), Building Demolition Coordinator



codes compliance assistance department
post office box 2842 st. petersburg, florida 33731-2842

DEMOLITION VIOLATION NOTICE

Delivered via U.S. Certified and First Class Mail

May 11, 2016

FIRST STREET & FIFTH AVE LLC
18608 MONACO AVE

LUTZ FL 33558

DEMOLITION CASE NO: 16-00008671
RESPONSIBLE PARTY: FUEL INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT
PROPERTY IN VIOLATION: 142 5TH AVE N
REV MAP OF ST PETERSBURG
BLK 3, LOT 6

STRUCTURE (S) : SGL FAM RES & TRIPLEX

This notice is directed to the above legal property owner(s) of record (responsible party) and additional copies are being provided to potentially interested parties including the person whose name and address appears at the top of this letter.

The property described above has been evaluated and determined to have conditions which appear to not comply with the City Code: **CHAPTER 8, DIV. 4, SEC. 8-263 - UNFIT OR UNSAFE DWELLINGS OR STRUCTURES**

The property owner or duly authorized representative **must obtain permits** to make repairs to the above referenced structure(s). The property owner may be required to retain a design professional to conduct an evaluation of the structure and produce a detailed written report with rehabilitation plans. A licensed contractor may also be required to provide a cost estimate and conduct the rehabilitation.

Permits to rehabilitate or to demolish the structure(s) must be obtained by June 20, 2016.

If these conditions are not corrected by the specified date, the City can take action to condemn and demolish the structure(s). All costs incurred in any condemnation action will be assessed as an interest bearing lien against the property. If additional time is needed to obtain permits for rehabilitation or demolition of the structure(s), contact me in writing with an outline of your plans before June 20, 2016.

Respectfully,

MAUREEN PALMER 892-5488 (Area Code 727), Building Demolition Coordinator

VI

Laura Duvekot

From: kimmylevell@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 4:30 PM
To: Laura Duvekot
Subject: Amended version previous email. Please include this version.

Dear Ms Duvekot,

I'm am writing to you about the proposed homes located at 118, 126, 136, and 142 5th Ave North has historic designation. I own a home located at 155 5th Ave N. As an accomplished exterior designer from the area I am all for preserving historic homes, however, for 5th Ave I believe this ship has sailed. In other words to force upon owners historic designation which would require costly repairs to these homes is unfair due to the fact that they are now surrounded and continue to be surrounded with new luxury town homes and high rises which have now made their homes be worth the land value only. It's my belief that no one will pay the premium price for an older home with the extreme costs it would require for repairs to these homes on a street that has eclectically been transformed over the years at today's current market values. If historic preservation had taken place before many other homes had been destroyed for "newer bigger homes" the "habu" or highest and best value of the land would stand for square footage price. Within the confines of Old North East where designating historic homes have occurred I could agree because they are surrounded by like properties, however, on 5th the city is too little too late and should not fiscally strangle the owners of these homes by requiring them to keep these homes as is or repaired to their former grandeur. It's unfortunate but this is entirely an unfair proposal based on allowing these homes as well as my own to be surrounded by high rises and high end townhomes yet not allowing these owners to do the same to their land within the confines of building codes and requirements.

My suggestion would be to be more pointed about the style of architecture or vision for St. Petersburg and requiring new structures to fall into this realm of design. As far as I can see now it's a free for all and not all what's being built is aesthetically cohesive or in many cases simply put bland and not attractive.

I am unable to attend this meeting and would like my voice heard. Is there anything else I can do to communicate my feelings?

Thank you in advance,

Kim Levell
813-810-5469

www.exteriordecorating.com

Please excuse the grammatical and spelling errors, auto correct is my editor. 😊

APPENDIX E: TIMELINE AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1914 – Concrete and frame and concrete structure w/ 8 rooms and 5 baths; 2 story frame garage apartment.¹⁵
- 1920 – Virginia L. Burnside became first woman elected to St Pete City Commission while living at 136 Fifth Avenue North (Item 1).¹⁶



The Rambler

**Election Of Mrs. C. G. Edwards
Recalls Fact Virginia Burnside
Was City Commissioner In 1920**

By A. R. DUNLAP
Dean of Florida Newsmen

Election of Mrs. Chester G. Edwards to City Council brought back to the Rambler memories of early days in local politics. He and many others turned their thoughts back to Mrs. Virginia Burnside who served two years as a member of the City Commission. The statement that Mrs. Edwards is the first woman to be elected a member of Council is technically correct. Mrs. Burnside was elected commissioner. She was elected, not appointed as many oldtimers here recall.

To get the facts straight the Rambler went back to the files of The Times. In the issue of April 7, 1920 he found reported the result of the election of the day before. Noel A. Mitchell was elected mayor. He received 875 votes. His opponents at that election were L. D. Childs, Cramer B. Potter and Dr. George W. Fitch. Three Commissioners were chosen that day. They were E. H. Lewis, Charles R. Carter and Mrs. Burnside. The vote, as reported in The Times was as follows:

E. H. Lewis	1,067
Charles R. Carter	1,007
Mrs. Virginia Burnside	967
E. H. Thomas	948
John E. Smith	723
H. L. Ermatinger	541
C. Buck Turner	457

Mrs. Burnside and her husband, John Burnside, came to St. Petersburg from Wisconsin. Burnside had held a high position with a large corporation and, when he retired, he and his wife came to St. Petersburg and became residents. They lived for years at 136 Fifth Avenue North. Mrs. Burnside took an active part in work of the clubs for women and in World War I was one of the leaders in the local chapter, American Red Cross. She also played a large part in Liberty Loan drives here.

Women were given the right to vote in St. Petersburg elections July 12, 1919 and soon afterward a movement was started to elect a woman to the city governing board. Mrs. Burnside was so popular, especially among the women of St. Petersburg, that she was selected to make a race for commissioner. She won and served two years.

Mrs. Burnside liked a house that was lighted well at night and had dozens of electric lamps in her house, all of them turned on every evening. Al F. Lang, former Mayor, recalls that her house was called the "House of the Thousand Lamps."

Our Governments

The Rambler has seen many different forms of government in St. Petersburg. When he came here in 1912 there was a Mayor and Council. A. C. Pheil was Mayor and attended meetings of Council though he had no vote. Only member of that Council now living is R. E. Sykes, who has a home at 518 Fifth Avenue North. It was his home in 1912 and he has never lived any other place here.

Mainly to oust the old Council, a plan was evolved to have the three - commissioner form of government and, after the Legislature passed a bill authorizing it, an election was held June 23, 1913 to choose three commissioners. Elected were C. D. Hammond, J. G. Bradshaw and T. J. Northrup. They served until 1915 when a new charter was drawn changing the form of government again. This time there were seven Commissioners and a Mayor.

The new Commission took office July 1, 1916 with Al F. Lang as Mayor and the following commissioners: A. P. Avery, A. C. Odom Jr., Charles R. Carter, R. Lee Davidson, James S. Norton, J. Frank Harrison and A. F. Thomasson.

The seven-commissioner plan was in effect until 1931 when the charter was changed again and the city manager - council plan was approved. Wilbur F. Cotton was the first manager.



Mrs. Virginia Burnside

Mrs. Virginia Burnside, who, through all her life has taken active part in public work, and who at this time is the only woman to sit on the St. Petersburg city commission, says that her chief occupation is that of a home-maker for her husband, John L. Burnside.

Mrs. Burnside came to St. Petersburg from Chicago in 1911 on the advice of her physician.

"He told me that it would be necessary to come to the land where the only climate was to be found," Mrs. Burnside said, "and I left Chicago for St. Petersburg almost 13 years ago feeling like an exile. I felt more like one when the train started over the long stretches of sandy waste between Jacksonville and here, but after I had been here three weeks—well I have been here 13 years. That speaks for itself."

Born in Griggsville, Ill., Mrs. Burnside received her grammar and high school education in that city, later attending Illinois college, where she received her degree in 1878. She was the valedictorian of her class and Officer of Belle Letters.

Mr. and Mrs. Burnside were married in Griggsville in 1882 and later moved to Chicago where Mr. Burnside was one of the founders. Burnside was one of the founders of the Destitute Crippled Children's

home in Chicago. At that time the organization was small and obscure but today has grown in its scope of usefulness until it is nationally known.

During the war she was vice chairman of the Red Cross chapter and at the present time is chairman of the local chapter. A member of the Congregational church since childhood, Mrs. Burnside is also on the roster of the Eastern Star, Woman's club, League of Women voters, Carreno club, Whist Literary club, Literary club, and Historical society. At the present time she is serving her second term on the city commission.

Her favorite authors are Shakespeare and Longfellow; she is fond of vegetables, and a good cup of coffee is her favorite drink. In sports she finds her greatest pleasure in golf and roque.

Commissioner Burnside's pet aversion is the person who is always grumpy, and always scolding or kicking, and attributes her present success in public life to the fact that while planning her life, she has always added a generous portion of genuine optimism.

The thing most needed by St. Petersburg to make it a better city is, in the opinion of Mrs. Burnside, cooperation in city government.

Item 1: St. Petersburg Times, May 17, 1951 (left); Evening Independent, January 29, 1924 (right).

¹⁵ City of St. Petersburg, Florida. Property Card for 136 5th Ave N. on file, City of St. Petersburg, Florida.

¹⁶ A.R. Dunlap, "Election of Mrs. C.G. Edwards recalls fact Virginia Burnside was City Commissioner in 1920," St. Petersburg Times, May 17, 1951.

- 1921 – Mary W. Duckering, of Boston and her sister [Dr. Florence Duckering] purchased house from Lew B. Brown, formerly occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John L. Burnside (Item 2).¹⁷

✦ ✦ ✦

Miss Mary W. Duckering arrived from Boston yesterday to make St. Petersburg her home. Miss Duckering and her sister spent last winter here and before leaving for Boston they bought from Lew B. Brown the handsome house at 136 Fifth Avenue North, formerly occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John L. Burnside. Miss Duckering will remodel the house and refurnish it for the winter season.

✦ ✦ ✦

Item 2: *Evening Independent*, September 10, 1921.

- 1921-1946 – While Mary Duckering managed the subject property as a rooming house, Florence Duckering continued her surgical practice in Boston, becoming the first female member of the American College of Surgeons().¹⁸
- 1930 and 1940– Census records indicate that Mary Duckering was the owner and full-time resident of the subject property; Dr. Florence Duckering was noted to live and practice medicine in Boston.¹⁹
- 1946 – Subject property purchased from Duckering sisters by James H. Paul (Item 3).²⁰ Mary and Florence Duckering purchased residence at 506 21st Avenue Northeast that same year when Florence retired from medical practice and joined her sister in spending winters in St. Petersburg.²¹

James H. Paul recently purchased a large guest house at 136 Fifth Avenue North, from Florence W. Duckering for an approximate \$34,000. The price did not include furniture. Future plans for the building were not announced. Both Paul and Mrs. Duckering are vacationing in New England and are not expected to return until late summer or fall.

Item 3: *St. Petersburg Times*, July 11, 1946.

- 1986 – Owners Mr. and Mrs. Hanson Hazelhand granted permit for demolition of garage apartment.²²

¹⁷ *Evening Independent*, "Miss Mary W. Duckering Arrived from Boston," September 10, 1921.

¹⁸ *St. Petersburg Times*, "Woman Surgeon Known Here Dies," October 30, 1951.

¹⁹ "United States Census, 1930", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:SBWZ-FZM>); "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K4VZ-SB9>)

²⁰ *St. Petersburg Times*, "Local Sales Remain Brisk; Five Deals Total \$80,000," July 11, 1946.

²¹ *St. Petersburg Times*, "Woman Surgeon Known Here Dies," October 30, 1951.

²² Property Card for 136 5th Ave N.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1931.

SPOKANE DAILY CHRONICLE.

Women Doctors Find Prejudice Against Feminine Surgeons Fast Disappearing

Need Ten Years of Hard Study for This Work

NEW YORK. (NEA.)—To be a surgeon a woman must have endurance, steady hands, calm nerves, singleness of purpose. She must be willing to devote at least 10 years to study and practice without remuneration.

This formula for success in surgery, a field of medicine where, as yet, comparatively few women have made their mark, was offered by three women members of the American College of Surgeons—among the half dozen of their sex who attended the clinical congress of the college here recently.

Face Prejudice.

"Women still must face considerable sex prejudice in the surgical field," admitted Dr. Emma K. Willetts of San Francisco, who has practiced for 30 years at the hospital for women and children there and is now chief of the surgical staff. "Surgery, being a more dramatic event in the life of the layman, has been one of the last departments of medicine to yield to women an equal standing with their male colleagues. This is entirely natural and women, by their distinguished performance, are rapidly winning confidence in every field of surgery."

Capable in Emergencies.

"Women's small hands and delicate touch give them advantages for the practice of surgery," added Dr. Louisa Paine Tingley, chief of ophthalmic surgery at the New England Deaconess hospital and the Massachusetts Women's hospital in Boston.

"And women can rise to emergencies," interposed Dr. Florence Duckering, veteran Boston surgeon. "People who say that women fail in this respect, speak from ignorance."

Must Concentrate.

As prejudice against women in business has gradually disappeared, so has the intolerance toward women in medicine vanished, the women surgeons



Three of the half-dozen women practitioners who are members of the American College of Surgeons are Dr. Emma K. Willetts (left) of San Francisco, Dr. Florence Duckering (center) of Boston, and Dr. Louise Tingley (right), also of Boston.

agreed. They stressed the need for concentration and singleness of purpose in the approach to medicine. While several instances were cited of women surgeons who had married and raised children and continued their practice, for the most part they find that women have to choose between a surgical career and home making—both full-time jobs.

Means Sacrifice.

Dr. Tingley, who is married, warned young women who looked toward surgery as a profession that they would have to sacrifice much social life that they might otherwise participate in. She has successfully combined matrimony and her career—but from the start ruled pots, pans and such do-

mestic preoccupations from her daily schedule.

It is no longer a question of sex but a question of individual ability and temperament that determines whether a woman is fitted to be a doctor or a surgeon, the women surgeons agreed. Although they were in the third generation of women physicians in America, they hewed a pioneer path. Now they see equal opportunity for women who are willing to make the sacrifices that the profession of surgery requires.

Trimly dressed, kindly faced, calm of manner, these women surgeons demonstrated that 30 years of exacting practice had not taken toll from their zest for life, their health and nerves.