

Historic status for homes in River Oaks and Riverside Terrace

HOUSTON, October 5, 2011 – Houston City Council designated the following six homes as historic landmarks.

The Marion L. Martin House at 2521 Stanmore Drive, designed by architect Cameron Fairchild, was built in 1936-37 as a speculative home by the River Oaks Corporation. This stucco-clad Colonial-Revival style house is one of five homes sited around a horseshoe-shaped court on Stanmore Drive. Architect Cameron Fairchild designed all five of the houses that the River Oaks Corporation built around the first of the River Oaks Courts on Stanmore Drive in 1936. The first owner of the house was Marion L. Martin, who worked in finance and later owned his own company, Marion L. Martin & Co, a local division of the Fidelity Deposit Company of Maryland.



The Ben Johnston House at 3325 Chevy Chase Drive, designed by well-known architect Charles Oliver, was built in 1927 as a speculative home by the River Oaks Corporation. Oliver was the in-house architect for the River Oaks Corporation from 1926 to 1931. Eventually, The Johnston House is an exceptional example of Oliver's work in the Tudor style, with its half-timbering, high-pitched cross-gables façade, and massive chimney. Ben Johnston was a Houston car dealer of Ford automobiles and president of Johnston Motor Company, which was located at the corner of San Jacinto and McKinney.

The Westwood-Milliken-Frucht House at 3120 South MacGregor Way in Riverside Terrace was designed and constructed in 1931-32 by Hayes & Orem. Hayes & Orem, a partnership of LeRoy Hayes and Herbert Orem, designed and constructed homes in the late 1920s and early 1930s in River Oaks, Boulevard Oaks and Riverside Terrace. The house at 3120 South MacGregor Way was designed in an English Picturesque style and was first occupied by H.O. Westwood, an executive in the canning industry. Later residents included prominent Houstonians Dr. Gibbs Milliken, who owned the house from 1936-1945, and Sig Frucht, who was in the produce business and owned the house from 1949 to 1967.



The Hill-Perry House at 3602 South MacGregor Way in Riverside Terrace was built in 1949 for Dr. J. Ernest Hill, a prominent Houston dentist, and his wife, Hazel Hill. The house is unique to Riverside Terrace because of its use of Austin stone, an unusual choice for Houston. The house is designed in a traditional style but has a modern, streamlined appearance. The Hills lived in the home from 1949-1968. It was then purchased by Drs. J.O. and Cynthia Shepard Perry. Dr. Cynthia Perry was a Professor at TSU, and is a former Ambassador to Sierra Leone and Burundi. She most recently was the United States.

The Scurry-Bybee House was constructed in 1936-37 for Mr. and Mrs. Tom Scurry. Scurry was a prominent lawyer for Baker, Botts, Andrews and Wharton. The house was designed by John F. Staub, one of Houston's most prominent residential architects. In 1960, the house was purchased by Faith and Charles Bybee, early Houston preservationists who campaigned to preserve Houston's Old Market Square. Charles Bybee was a banker and philanthropist, and Faith Bybee was a lifelong collector of American antiques who engaged in a "friendly rivalry" with Ima Hogg. In 1954, Faith Bybee co-founded the Heritage Society with her brother-in-law Harvin C. Moore and Marie Phelps.



The residence at 2224 Looscan Drive, designed by well-known architect Charles Oliver, was built in 1927-28. The home was built for William Davis Royston, Certified Public Accountant, who had his own business, William D. Royston, CPA, Co., in the First National Bank Building. Charles Oliver classified the William D. Royston House as "American in design." The house is unique in that it was the very first home built in River Oaks Section 3 (the "Buffalo Drive Section").

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