

# This old farmhouse is now a historic landmark

**HOUSTON, May 2, 2012** – Houston City Council designated the Klunkert Farmhouse at 2911 Julian Street as a protected historic landmark.

The Klunkert Farmhouse at 2911 Julian in the Woodland Heights neighborhood was built circa 1875, long before the subdivisions that now surround it.

Ernst and Wilhelmina Klunkert built the farmhouse for their family on their 11.73 acre homestead outside the city limits, north of White Oak Bayou, in an area popular with other German immigrants. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the farmhouse was quickly surrounded by the burgeoning ‘suburban’ development in Houston Heights and Woodland Heights, but the homestead itself resisted development until 1924, when a portion was subdivided into the Ridgemont Addition.



Unlike its later neighbors in the Woodland Heights, the house is set back 53 ft from the street, its front is oriented toward the east and its fireplace is on the north, a typical orientation for farm residences of the period. The two-story house has the rigid plan organization characteristic of a simple Greek Revival style. The central stairway flanked by two rooms in the front of the house and two rooms in the back would have been typical in rural Texas following the Civil War. Although the house has seen some alterations over the years, it has been well maintained and retains its historic farmhouse character. The Klunkert House, because of its age, style, and siting is a unique representation of the early German settlers and the agrarian culture which dominated the area north of White Oak Bayou in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.