

## Three unique homes added to list of historic properties

The Carroll House, a one-story L-plan cottage, at 309 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, built circa 1910, was one of the first houses in Independence Heights and an excellent example of early vernacular houses. Settled by African-American families starting around 1910, Independence Heights incorporated as an independent municipality in 1915. All of the community leaders of Independence Heights – teachers, contractors, businessmen, as well as its three mayors – were African-American. Although annexed into the City of Houston in 1929, Independence Heights has retained its special character, as many families have lived there for decades. Andrew Carroll, the original owner of the Carroll House, was a farmer and minister, and the house has remained in the hands of his descendants for one hundred years. The Carroll family contributed to the making of Independence Heights - co-founded Greater New Hope Baptist Church, ran the General Store Cooperative, worked in Burgess Hall, were long standing members of Concord Baptist Church, and owners of a barbecue stand, a beauty shop and a barbershop. The home's owner, Charles Piper, is Carroll's great grandson. The home is now a Protected Historic Landmark.



The residence at 3626 Overbrook Lane in River Oaks was built in 1948 by builder W.D. Peck for Howard and Myrtle Donig. The two-story brick and wood shingle house was built after plans originally conceived by Myrtle Donig. On a trip to Pennsylvania, Mrs. Donig fell in love with Amish farmhouses; she snapped a photo of her favorite and upon return to Houston set out to design her River Oaks adaptation of an Amish farmhouse. The unique design garnered the neighborhood's attention and was featured in the *River Oaks Times* and the *Houston Post*. The home was designated a Historic Landmark.

The Fore-Blaine House at 2504 Stanmore Drive was designed by local architect Fred Gray, and built in 1935 by Jack and Lois Fore. Building houses was the couple's hobby and the house at 2504 Stanmore was the first of three houses that they built. Jack Fore was an insurance executive for his entire career; he owned Jack Fore Agency and was Vice President of Texas-Fore Associates. The Fores lived in the house only until 1940. The house was purchased in 1941 by Robert and Elizabeth Blaine and remained in the Blaine family until 1988. The Fore-Blaine House is located in the first platted section of River Oaks, is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style, and retains most of its original exterior features. The home was designated a Historic Landmark.

