

# News Release



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## Shaw House and William Fairchild House receive historic designation

**HOUSTON, April 20, 2010** – Houston City Council designated the Shaw House at 2912 Helena and the William Fairchild House at 2911 Ella Lee Lane as historic landmarks.

The Shaw House was built by Abraham Shaw circa 1905 in the Queen Anne style for his family. The Shaw House is one of the best remaining examples of the original architectural development of the Fairgrounds Addition southwest of downtown Houston, and represents an important chapter in the story of how housing needs developed in Houston. When the Fairgrounds Addition was platted in the late 1880s by Bettie Bryan and her L. Bryan & Company real estate company, single family houses were the prevalent type of dwelling in Houston. By the 1920s, many of these original houses were demolished to make room for Houston's first apartment buildings. Now largely surrounded by vacant land and new construction, the Shaw House is a rare survivor of the neighborhood's earliest period of development.



The William Fairchild House was built in 1936 and designed by architect Cameron Fairchild, William's brother. Fairchild designed the house in the eclectic style, incorporating Colonial Revival details. Born in Waco, Cameron Fairchild began his architectural practice in Houston in 1925. Over the course of a long career, he became noted for his eclectic single-family houses in Houston neighborhoods such as Shadow Lawn, Boulevard Oaks, Braeswood, Riverside Terrace, and particularly River Oaks. Fairchild also designed or remodeled numerous public buildings in Houston, such as the Jesse H. Jones Library Building at the Texas Medical Center; the 14-story downtown First Savings Building; South Texas College of Law; and Trinity Church on Main Street.



For information regarding historic preservation, go to [www.houstonplanning.com](http://www.houstonplanning.com).