

News Release



CONTACT: Suzy Hartgrove: 713-837-7719
Email: Suzy.Hartgrove@houstontx.gov

Historic approval for Carroll House, one of Independence Heights' first homes and for the Donig House, an Amish replica

HOUSTON, February 8, 2012 – Houston City Council designated the following two historic landmarks.

The Carroll House, a one-story L-plan cottage, at 309 East 32nd 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 barbeque stand, a beauty shop and a barbershop. The home's owner, Charles Piper, is Carroll's great grandson.

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 house is



currently owned by Council Member Oliver Pennington and wife, Beverly.

For information regarding historic preservation, go to www.houstonplanning.com.

#