

News Release



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Beloved Rufus Cage Elementary School declared a Protected Historic Landmark

HOUSTON, March 7, 2012 – Houston City Council designated the Rufus Cage Elementary School at 1417 Telephone Road as a Protected Historic Landmark. The designation protects it from demolition or inappropriate alteration.

Rufus Cage Elementary School at 1417 Telephone Road is one of the oldest school buildings still standing in Houston. Built in 1910, the raised two-story mission-style brick school with four classrooms served students in Houston's East End until 1983. The school was named for Rufus Cage, a longtime school board trustee and president, who donated the land upon which the school was built. Originally a county school, Cage Elementary became part of the City of Houston's public school system in 1914. After the school moved to a new campus in 1983, Houston Independent School District (HISD) used the old building primarily for storage. In October 2011, HISD transferred ownership of the vacant school property to the City of Houston.

Despite some deterioration in recent years, the school building is structurally sound, and retains much of its original 1910 features, including high ceilings in the two classroom floors, tall wood windows, beadboard on the walls, and wood floors. The exterior brick is now covered with stucco, and the open ground level was enclosed years ago for school offices and library and features ceilings barely 6 feet high.

Below is the school in 1910 and as it stands today.



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

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