

News Release



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Historic status bestowed on the James and Marguerite Shepherd House and the Arthur and Diane Fennekohl House

HOUSTON, January 18, 2012 – Houston City Council designated the following two historic landmarks.

The James and Marguerite Shepherd House at 2105 Brentwood Drive at the corner of Shepherd Drive was designed in the English Picturesque style by well-known architect Charles Oliver. The house was constructed in 1927-28 for James L. Shepherd, Jr., a prominent attorney with Baker, Botts, Andrews and Shepherd, and his wife Marguerite Street Shepherd. Shepherd was the nephew of B. A. Shepherd, for whom Shepherd Drive was named. Charles Oliver was the in-house architect for the River Oaks Corporation from 1926 to 1931. Oliver would design 75 houses in River Oaks in many styles including Georgian, Tudor, Dutch Colonial, Mediterranean and Norman. The Johnston House is an exceptional example of Oliver's work in the English Picturesque style, with its half-timbering, high-pitched cross-gabled façade, and massive chimney. In 1935, the Shepherds commissioned John F. Staub to design a breezeway addition and garage alteration. The property is unique in that it was designed by two of Houston's most prominent architects.



The Arthur and Diane Fennekohl House at 3827 Inwood Drive was built in 1942 by Rolf Fredrikson for Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fennekohl. It was designed by MacKie & Kamrath, a well-recognized Houston architectural firm. In the 1940s after meeting Frank Lloyd Wright, MacKie & Kamrath shifted towards a modernist style that shaped their legacy in Houston. The Arthur and Diane Fennekohl House is an unusual example of MacKie & Kamrath's traditional residential architecture.



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