



# PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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## **Historic Preservation Fair targets historic homeowners and remodelers**

**Fair will showcase the Houston Permitting Center at 1002 Washington – a newly designated City Protected Landmark**

**HOUSTON, May 3, 2013** – The City of Houston’s Planning and Development Department is hosting a Historic Preservation Fair on Saturday May 18, 2013 from 8 a.m to 1 p.m. at the Houston Permitting Center located at 1002 Washington Ave.

This free, half day event is open to the public and is designed to bring historic neighborhoods together to provide residents and professionals the opportunity to interact and discuss challenges related to caring for older homes. The fair will include a variety of workshops topics such as alterations and additions to historic properties, repairing historic windows, historic district and landmark designation process, historic site tax exemptions, and appropriate new construction. Educational tools and resources will be available to help residents learn to properly care and restore their historic property.

Those who own or renovate historic houses are encouraged to attend the event to learn and better understand best practices and requirements of the historic preservation ordinance.

The deadline to register is noon Wednesday May 15, 2013. For more information and to register online go to [www.HoustonPlanning.com](http://www.HoustonPlanning.com) and click on Historic Preservation.

The Fair will be held at the City’s new Permitting Center, designated on May 8 as a Protected Historic Landmark. Also known as the Butler Brothers Historic building, it was constructed in 1919 for the Butler Brothers firm, a wholesale general merchandise company based in Chicago. The firm did not stay long in Houston, as the building was reoccupied in 1924 by the Universal Terminal Warehouse Company. The building was originally two stories tall plus a basement. Two additional stories were added by 1940 by Henry F. Jonas and Tabor.

The building remained under Universal Terminal



Warehouse Company's management into the 1980s. By 1996, it was vacant. The City of Houston purchased the building in 2009 and undertook a LEED certified renovation of the building with the purpose of turning it into the City Permitting Center. This project was completed in 2011. The City of Houston won the Good Brick Award for the restoration of the Butler Brothers Building in 2012 from Preservation Houston.

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