

News Release



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Houston designates Boulevard Oaks as city's 15th historic district

HOUSTON, December 29, 2009 – Houston City Council designated the Boulevard Oaks Historic District. Boulevard Oaks is in the University Place super neighborhood. Boulevard Oaks Historic District is one of the finest residential neighborhoods to emerge from the Houston's residential building boom of the 1920s and epitomizes upper middle income residential developments in Houston 'South End,' south and west of downtown Houston.

The neighborhood began with the platting of the Edgemont subdivision in 1923, when the esplanades on North and South Boulevard were platted. From there, six other subdivisions followed the esplanade pattern and streetscape of North and South Boulevard to create the six blocks that comprise the district. Although comprised of seven separate subdivisions, the district is consistent in terms of the scale of homes, setbacks, lot sizes, and architectural style.

The houses, most built between the middle 1920s and late 1930s, exemplify the refined suburban domestic architectural traditions prevalent in the United States during the interwar years. The developers and architects who designed Boulevard Oaks – Joseph Northrop, Jr, Katharine Mott, Hiram Salisbury, Birdsall Briscoe, Joseph Finger, and Russell Brown, among others worked in similar neighborhood developments in Houston. Some of Houston's most prominent citizens built homes in and around the Boulevard Oaks neighborhood in the Revival architectural styles that were in vogue at the time. The styles of architecture found in Boulevard Oaks include Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival, as well as French Manorial, Neoclassical, and English Picturesque. The dominance of brick and siding facades combined with similar setbacks and landscaping reinforces the neighborhood's cohesiveness. Along North and South Boulevards, landscaped esplanades planted with oak trees are an integral part of the neighborhood's plan and make Boulevard Oaks a memorable district in Houston.

Retaining a high level of historic integrity with very few non-contributing structures, Boulevard Oaks is perhaps Houston best preserved residential area of its type and period. Boulevard Oaks was listed as a National Register Historic District on February 22, 2002,

Houston's Historic Preservation Ordinance, adopted by City Council in 1995, recognizes and protects the city's historic sites. By preserving the city's valuable historic resources, residents and visitors are visibly reminded of our culture and heritage, boosting civic pride and economic prosperity. For more information, go to www.houstonplanning and click on Historic Preservation.