

News Release



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Sidney Sherman Brady House received historic designation

HOUSTON, October 21, 2009 – Houston City Council designated the Sidney Sherman Brady House, 3805 Wilmer Street, as a protected historic landmark.



Sidney Sherman Brady was a member of one of the oldest families of the South. His grandfather was General Sidney Sherman, hero of the battle of San Jacinto, and his father was John Thomas Brady, one of Houston's most prominent pioneers. Sidney Sherman was made lieutenant colonel of the Texas army in March 1836 and led troops in the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. He served as a Harris County representative; Major General of Militia; commandant of Galveston during the Civil War; and organized the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway Company, which constructed the first rail line in Texas.

After moving to Houston in 1856, John Thomas Brady established a law practice, became a Confederate soldier, served two terms in the Texas legislature and was among the first Texas lawyers to appear before the Supreme Court of the United States after Texas was readmitted to the Union. John Brady was a principal organizer of the Texas Transportation Company, which became part of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Brady was instrumental in deepening the ship channel to bring large ships and commerce to the port of Houston. Magnolia Park, one of Houston's oldest neighborhoods, was laid out in 1890 on a 1,374-acre site owned by John Thomas Brady.

Following in the footsteps of his well-known family, Sidney Sherman Brady left a lasting impression on Houston through his achievements in Houston's business ventures and prominence in social circles. He served as president of the Sherman Brady Brick Company, Brady Hamilton Land Company, and Sherman Brady Brick Works. He was the organizer of the Buffalo Bayou Transportation Company and was one of the largest personal holders of real estate in the city. He also served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Courtlandt Improvement Company, which developed Courtlandt Place, both a National Register of Historic Places and City of Houston Historic District.

The Sidney Sherman Brady House was custom built for Sidney Sherman Brady in 1905. The home was designed in the Queen Anne style and features a wrap around front porch. The building is of true masonry construction unlike many historic and modern counterparts which utilize only a brick veneer cladding system over a wood frame.

Houston's Historic Preservation Ordinance 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. More information is available online at the Planning Department web site at www.houstonplanning.com under Historic Preservation.