

News Release



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Four homes receive historic designation

HOUSTON, June 24, 2009 – Houston City Council recently designated two homes as historic landmarks and two as protected historic landmarks which protects the buildings from demolition or substantial exterior alteration. The newly designated properties are as follows:

Protected historic landmarks

Smith Anderson House, 3605 Del Monte

The residence was built in 1947 for Harry K. Smith, a well-known Houston business leader and philanthropist. Harry K. Smith was Chairman of the Board and CEO of Big Three Industries, a manufacturer and distributor of industrial gases, until selling the company in 1986 for over \$1 billion to L'Air Liquide S.A. In 1957, Smith sold the house to James Anderson, Jr., a Houston lawyer and security analyst, whose widow, Gloria Anderson, still resides in the house. The two-story Colonial Revival red brick home was designed by architect Theo F. Keller and built around a unique bricked courtyard with a fountain on the center wall.



Cleveland Sewell House, 3456 Inwood

The residence was built by Cram & Ferguson, a nationally recognized Boston architectural firm, in association with Stayton Nunn, a noted Houston architect, for Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland Sewall in 1926. The Cleveland Sewell House may be described as Spanish in style. Mrs. Sewall was so taken by Ralph Adams Cram's buildings at Rice University that she commissioned him to design the home for her and her husband. Her personality is permanently imprinted on the home as she provided the sketches to Cram for its rambling design.



Landmarks

Hugh Roy Cullen House, 1402 Alabama

The land on which the home at 1402 Alabama now stands was originally owned by Joseph Chappell Hutcheson. Hutcheson was elected to the Seventeenth Texas Legislature in 1880 where he drafted the bill that established the University of Texas.



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The two-story house, constructed sometime between 1911 and 1918, is of wood frame construction with clapboard siding, and is asymmetrical in plan. Hugh Roy Cullen and family owned the home for 34 years. He and his wife, Lillie, gave millions to their favorite projects and in 1947, established the \$160 million Cullen Foundation to provide for continual aid to education and medicine. By 1955 he had given away an estimated 90 percent of his fortune. He entered into the oil business in 1918 and his largest oil field, the Tom O'Conner Field in South Texas, still produces oil today. The house is a unique blend of the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Prairie styles.

William T. Campbell, Jr. Home, 3236 Inwood

The house was designed by Birdsall P. Briscoe and was built in 1925 by James M. L. West. It was one of the nine speculative houses in the original River Oaks project developed by Country Club Estates. The original owner of the house, William T. Campbell, Jr., was best known as a co-founder of Mission Manufacturing, a Houston company that produced equipment for petroleum industry. The Campbell family remained in the house until the early 1990s. Campbell's sister, Sarah Campbell Blaffer, was well known for her gifts of artwork to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the University of Houston art museum that bears her name, and the Sarah Campbell Blaffer Foundation whose goal is to bring the visual arts to people throughout the state of Texas.



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More information including photos of the properties is online at the Planning Department web site at www.houstonplanning.com under Historic Preservation.