

News Release



CONTACT: Suzy Hartgrove: 713-837-7719
Email: Suzy.Hartgrove@cityofhouston.net

City of Houston designates three homes in River Oaks as historic

HOUSTON, February 25, 2009 – Houston City Council recently designated the William C. Clayton House at 3376 Inwood, as a protected historic landmark and the Ben M. Anderson Home at 3740 Willowick and the David D. Bruton-Caroline Wiess Law House at 2923 Inwood Drive as historic landmarks.

The William L. Clayton Summer House at 3376 Inwood Drive was the first home to be built in River Oaks. It was built as the summer house for Houston businessman, public servant, author, and philanthropist William Lockhart Clayton and his family. Clayton was co-founder of the Anderson-Clayton Cotton Company, which grew to become one of the world's largest cotton brokerage firms with offices in several countries. The William L. Clayton Summer House was built in 1924 and designed by Houston architect Birdsall P. Briscoe, who had designed the Claytons' primary residence at 5300 Caroline (now the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research), as well as many of the grand homes located in Courtlandt Place, Broadacres, and Riverside Terrace. The two-story house is designed in the Colonial Revival style, and faces onto the River Oaks Country Club Golf Course. Susan Clayton Garwood, a granddaughter of William L. Clayton, is the current owner of the house.



The residence at 3740 Willowick Road was designed by John F. Staub, a noted Houston architect, for Ben and Mary Greenwood Anderson. Staub is best known as an architect of single-family houses and is closely identified with the River Oaks neighborhood. The house at 3740 Willowick Road has been featured in publications including Howard Barnstone's *The Architecture of John F. Staub* and the *Houston Architectural Guide*. In the *Guide*, Stephen Fox describes the home as a "Greek revival cottage merged with a classic 50s ranch house." Ben Anderson is best known as the founder of valve manufacturer Anderson Greenwood and Co., and as an aviation enthusiast who donated his collection of aviation memorabilia to the Fondren Library at Rice University. In 2008, Glen Gonzalez purchased the home from the estate and intends to complete a restoration.



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Currently owned by Shannon B. and Leslie E. Sasser , the residence at 2923 Inwood Drive was built in 1933 and designed by John F. Staub, a prominent Houston architect, for David D. and Harriet Bruton. In the early 1950s, the house was purchased by Caroline Wiess Law and her then-husband, William Howard Francis, who was assistant secretary of defense for President Eisenhower at the time of his death in 1958. Caroline Wiess Law was a major art collector and benefactor to the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. Her home on Inwood Drive was a ‘treasure chest’ of major artworks that are now a part of the MFAH’s permanent collection.



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