

# News Release



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## Houston designates First Montrose Commons, city's 16<sup>th</sup> historic district

**HOUSTON, June 9, 2010** – Houston City Council designated the First Montrose Commons Historic District. First Montrose Commons is located within the greater Montrose area just west of downtown Houston in an area loosely bounded by West Alabama Street on the north, Richmond Street on the south, Montrose Boulevard on the west and Spur 527 on the east.

First Montrose Commons was one of several upscale “suburban” neighborhoods developed in Houston during the first quarter of the 20th century, which included Audubon Place, Courtlandt Place, Avondale, Montrose, and Westmoreland. The proposed historic district consists of two distinct subdivision plats – Lockhart, Connor & Barziza Addition, platted in 1873, and Bute Addition, platted in 1907. The Lockhart, Connor & Barziza Addition was named after the real estate partners in the subdivision – Robert Lockhart, John C. Connor, and Philippa Barziza. The adjacent Bute Addition was established by James Bute, the founder of the Bute Paint Company, one of the longest continually operating businesses in Houston’s history. While the proposed First Montrose Commons historic district was originally platted as two different subdivisions, over time these unique sections have formed an individual identity which has become known as the neighborhood of First Montrose Commons.

The historic houses and apartment buildings in First Montrose Commons were built in the architectural styles in vogue in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Craftsman and Bungalow are the most prevalent architectural types found in the neighborhood, but the First Montrose Commons also contains eclectic examples of Prairie, Mission Revival, Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, and Art Deco styles. With a large collection of two-story single-family residences, period apartment buildings, and one-story bungalows, First Montrose Commons retains its special historic identity.



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](http://www.houstonplanning) and click on Historic Preservation.