

News Release



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Five notable homes awarded historic status

HOUSTON, August 3, 2011 – Houston City Council designated the Dr. John Hoskins Foster House and the Morrow-Jones House as protected historic landmarks. Council also designated the Seth S. Lamb House, the John C. McEwen House and the River Oaks Corporation House as historic landmarks.

The historic home located at 320 Branard was built in 1912 in a unique Prairie Style for Dr. John H. Foster. Dr. Foster, an eminent Houston physician, not only treated patients but also authored many medical articles. He served as President of the South Texas District/Harris County Medical Society, Vice-President of the State Medical Association of Texas, President of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Section of the Houston Academy of Medicine as well as Delegate to the American Medical Association. The home was designed by the eminent Houston architect, Birdsall P. Briscoe.



The Morrow-Jones House was constructed in 1938 in the English Picturesque style by Houston architects, Hiram A. Salisbury and T. George McHale. The home was originally built for John and Harriet Tarlton Morrow. Morrow was a prominent attorney with Vinson, Elkins, Weems and Francis. In 1966, the house was purchased by Dan and Ann McNamara. Dr. McNamara established the first Pediatric Cardiology Clinic in Texas at the first Pediatric Cardiology Department at Texas Children's Hospital.

The Seth S. Lamb house at 2421 Brentwood Drive was constructed by Katharine Mott as her first speculative home in River Oaks in 1928-29. Before the home was completed, it was purchased by Seth S. Lamb of Seth Lamb & Company brokerage firm. According to the Houston Architectural Survey, the construction of 2421 Brentwood Drive started a building program in River Oaks by the Motts that would include at least ten homes. Her contribution to Houston was recognized in 1998 with Rice Design Alliance Tour.



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The John C. McEwan House at 3819 Olympia was built by the Russell Brown Company, a noted Houston building firm, as a speculative home in 1942 in the traditional Colonial Revival style home of the pre-World War II era. The home has only been owned by three families: the McEwens, the Wells and the Tarltons. Dudley Tarlton was a Houston aviator who owned a helicopter transport company called Tarlton Helicopters.

The River Oaks Corporation House at 2164 Troon Road is situated on a block of Troon Road that remains one the most architecturally intact areas in River Oaks; three houses on the block are City of Houston Landmarks. The River Oaks Corporation House was designed by Charles Oliver in the Colonial Revival style and built in 1929-30 for the River Oaks Corporation as a speculative house. Charles Oliver designed over 75 houses in River Oaks in a variety of architectural styles. Previous owners of the house include E. A. Showers, President of Showers and Moncrief, and Paul Benedum, manager of Benedum Trees Oil Company.



For information regarding historic preservation, go to www.houstonplanning.com.