



# PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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## City Council designates 6 remarkable homes as historic landmarks

**HOUSTON, December 7, 2012** – Adding to the historic inventory of the City are five homes in River Oaks and one mid century modern home in Glenbrook Valley.

The Salvatore and Lily Ann Muscanere House is located at 7843 Santa Elena Street within the Glenbrook Valley Historic District. The house was constructed in 1956 and Norman Edwards is credited with preparing the construction drawings. The ranch house is located on an interior lot and is of the Mid-Century Modern architectural style. In addition, specific design elements were incorporated indicative of the owners' Sicilian family heritage. The family owned the property continuously until 2008, and the family was well known friendly neighbors of the community. The Muscaneres operated many small businesses in Houston and had extensive real estate holdings throughout the city. In October 2009, the house was one of six homes featured on the Modern & Historic Home Tour sponsored by Houston Mod in conjunction with the annual Docomomo Tour Day, a national celebration of Mid-Century Modern architecture.



The James W. and Lella D. Cain House, located at 3015 Del Monte, was built in 1929 and designed in the English Tudor style by noted Houston architect, Charles Oliver. Oliver was the in-house architect for River Oaks Corporation from 1926 to 1931. Eventually, Oliver would design 75 homes in the upscale River Oaks neighborhood in many styles including Georgian, Tudor, Dutch Colonial, Mediterranean and Norman. The original owners of 3015 Del Monte, James W. and Lella Cain, occupied the house from 1929 to mid-1970s. James Cain, a mechanical engineer, was involved in the sulphur mining industry. In 1928 he and his business partner Alfred H. Smith established the Duval Texas Sulphur Company in Palangana, Texas.



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The R. L. Jolley House at 2527 Pelham Drive, designed by well-known architect Hiram Salisbury, was built in 1930 for Russell and Loretto Jolley. Russell Jolley was a prominent engineer and longtime board member of the San Jacinto River Authority. The R. L. Jolley House is historically significant to Houston's architectural history because of its design by the locally prominent architect Hiram Salisbury. It is also significant due to its distinct styling featuring Georgian Colonial Revival design elements combined with a large turret on the primary façade.



The Dow and Helen Hamm House at 3412 Piping Rock Lane was designed by Moore & Lloyd in 1938 and completed in 1939. The home is designed in a 1930s interpretation of an early Louisiana home, which was described at the time in *River Oaks Magazine* as “a happy blending of the Louisiana and California Colonial styles.” The home was originally built for William Dow and Helen Hamm. Mr. Hamm was a prominent geologist for Shell Petroleum Company. Hamm later led exploration efforts for Atlantic Refining Co (ARCO), and under his leadership, the company discovered Prudhoe Bay in Alaska, the largest oil field in the United States. The house was later owned by Houston Chronicle Editor George Cottingham and his wife

Mary Lee.

The Tomlinson-Blundell House at 2187 Troon was designed by architect Richard Campbell Hoyt and built by builder and developer William Farrington in 1937. It was designed specifically for Hendley and Alma Tomlinson. Mr. Tomlinson was President of the Tomlinson-Mills Lumber Company and Mrs. Tomlinson was a descendent of, and family historian for, the pioneer von Rosenberg family of Texas. The Tomlinson-Blundell House is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style with Georgian emphasis. The most prominent Georgian details of the house are its heavily carved entry with an elaborate segmental pediment supported by pilasters, cornice emphasized with tooth-like dentils, pedimented dormers, five-ranked windows and symmetrically balanced with center door.



The William and Hazel Knight House at 3405 Piping Rock Lane was designed by architect Hermon Lloyd and built by Ivan H. Greer in 1941. The home was designed in the English Picturesque style with Modern details common during the 1940s. The Knights moved in to the home in 1942. Mr. Knight practiced law with Sewell, Taylor, Morris and Connally, which later became Gardere, Wynne, and Sewell, one of Texas' pre-eminent law firms.