



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Jeff Davis Hospital, Etchison House, Garrison House, Thornbury House, and Brown House receive historic designation

HOUSTON, November 20, 2013 – City Council designated the original Jefferson Davis Hospital Building and the Whitaker-Graliano-Brown as Protected Historic Landmarks and the Etchison, Garrison and Thornbury homes as historic landmarks. The Protected preserve the structure in perpetuity.

The Jefferson Davis Hospital at 1101 Elder Street was the first city-owned, permanent hospital facility that accepted indigent patients. Completed in 1924 and operated jointly by the City of Houston and Harris County, the hospital was built atop the 1840 Houston City Cemetery, which was active until the 1880s. As there was no widespread removal of graves from the site, the building's basement was erected above ground. The hospital was named in honor of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, since a large number of Confederate soldiers had been buried on the site. The hospital was designed and constructed in the Neoclassical style and remains today the only building of its prominence and stature in the First Ward neighborhood. The three-story structural concrete and clay tile building has a red brick and cast stone veneer. Notable elements include its central projecting portico with fluted columns and ionic capitals, cast stone detailing, pedimented entry doors and brick corner quoins.



The Whitaker-Graliano-Brown House is located at 400 Cordell Street in the Brooke Smith Addition. It was built in 1918 in the bungalow style but features unusual neo-classical elements. It was built for Lee Roy Whitaker, who was of the working class attracted to the affordable and desirable location of the newly developed neighborhood. The house was subsequently owned for three decades by the Graliano family who were Italian immigrants to the United States. The current owner, Michael K. Brown, who also has

owned the home for over 30 years, is the collection curator for Bayou Bend, the former home of Miss Ima Hogg.

The Donald and Dorothy Thornbury House at 1903 Olympia Drive was designed by Harvin Moore and Hermon Lloyd in 1941. Donald H. Thornbury was a Vice President of the oil service company, Mid Continent Company. The house was later owned by Donald A. Lee, a partner in Lee Bros. Oil Company. Lee was a son of William E. Lee, a partner in the Yount Lee Oil Company. The house was designed in the Colonial Revival style with elements of Georgian architecture. It is also notable as one of the last projects that Moore and Lloyd designed together; their partnership dissolved around the end of 1941. The house was updated in 1988 by architect Frank Genzer, Jr., who seamlessly blended the original Moore & Lloyd house with the new addition.



The Roy P. Etchison House at 2140 Pine Valley Drive was designed by architect Eugene Werlin and first occupied by the Etchison family in 1940. Mr. Etchison was an owner and operator of Brooks System Sandwich automated food shops, aka One's a Meal. The two-story Etchison house is designed in the Monterey style and is faced with multicolored brick in a "drunk brick" bond meant to look uneven and hand done.

The Raymond and Connie Garrison House at 3014 San Felipe was built by the Russell Brown Company in 1937. W. Raymond Garrison was involved with banking in Houston. The Russell Brown Company was founded in Houston in 1906 and was a prolific builder and designer of upscale houses in Houston and other Texas cities through the early 1940s. The Garrison House is designed in the Colonial Revival style with the trademark attention to detail of a Russell Brown Company house.



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