



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Childress House and McFarland House receive historic designation

HOUSTON, April 30, 2014 – City Council approved the Virgil and Doris Childress House and the Ira and Minnette McFarland House as a City of Houston historic landmark.

3239 Locke Lane was designed by Moore & Lloyd in 1936 for Virgil and Doris Childress. The Virgil and Doris Childress House is unique for River Oaks because of its Modernistic design; it was the first of its type in the neighborhood and only the second residential Moderne home in the City. Virgil was an attorney and Doris was an artist and artist representative. She lived in the home until her death in 2001.

The Ira and Minnette McFarland House at 3251 Ella Lee Lane was designed by architect Addison McElroy for the River Oaks



Corporation. McElroy built many houses in River Oaks and around Houston and later designed and renovated churches throughout Texas. The residence at 3251 Ella Lee Lane was built as a speculative house in 1931 and purchased from the River Oaks Corporation by the McFarland family in 1934. The home is designed in the Neoclassical style and is reminiscent of many of the houses in New Orleans. Ira McFarland worked for Texaco and his wife, Minnette, was active in volunteering with numerous Houston organizations. After her husband's death, Minnette remained in the house until the 1970s.

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