

News Release



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McHenry House in River Oaks and Duke/Shapiro House in Riverside Terrace receive historic designations

HOUSTON, June 1, 2012 – Houston City Council designated the McHenry House and the Duke/Shapiro House as historic landmarks.

Well-known Houston architect Robert C. Smallwood designed the R. Kingsley and Alma McHenry House at 3660 Chevy Chase Drive. The home was built in 1940 for Dr. McHenry and wife Alma. Dr. McHenry was a prominent radiologist, a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and a member of the American Radium Society. Beginning in 1928, he became one of the earliest physicians in Houston to specialize in X-ray diagnosis and treatment. Dr. McHenry lived in the home until his death in 1949. His wife Mrs. Alma continued to live there with her second husband, Edward Putnam, until 1981. Alma had been a school teacher and elementary school principal and later became active in the Blue Bird Circle, St. Luke's Methodist Church and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The McHenry House is designed in a Southern Colonial style, featuring a central entrance with full height portico and columns.



The Duke/Shapiro House at 3441 North Parkwood was built in 1939-1940 and designed by Dixon and Ellis as a speculative home. The two-story, asymmetrical French Eclectic style house is located in the Riverside Terrace neighborhood directly across from Parkwood Park. The house was first occupied by R. Spencer Duke, a local optometrist and was later occupied by Benji and Sara Shapiro. Shapiro was involved in many successful business ventures over his lifetime. First platted in 1924, the affluent neighborhood of Riverside Terrace in southeast Houston became known as the 'Jewish River Oaks' from the 1930s through the 1950s. Beginning in the 1950s, the neighborhood transitioned to primarily African-American families. Today, the neighborhood contains numerous examples of outstanding architecture from the late Art Deco and mid-century modern eras.

