

209 E. WOODLAND



This Craftsman bungalow was one of five on the street built in 1920 by Emil Kirsch, a railroad carpenter. First rented by a German Jewish immigrant family from New York, it remained primarily a rental until 1997. Then Dawn and Bob Shumway, Woodland Heights preservation pioneers spearheading its revitalization, bought the homes and renovated all five while living in this house.

Purchased by the current owner in 2004, the house was raised, renovated and expanded last year. The front porch posts, bases and railings are original. The porch floor and brick columns were reconstructed using wood from a house torn down nearby and reclaimed bricks. Note the original and unusual vertical orientation of the waterfall siding on the front gable.



The wood floors throughout the first floor are original – those in the kitchen uncovered as tile was removed during last year's work. Most of the downstairs windows are original as is the bookcase colonnade with opposite doors and tapered posts. The home's trim is Victorian Revival, later additions to the much simpler Craftsman originals. The chandelier in the dining room is an antique Leaded Slag Glass Inverted Dome circa 1915.

The new second story features wood floors and doors of reclaimed pine. Take a look at the painting at the top of the stairway. This portrait of the homeowner's eighteenth-century ancestor is a reproduction of a Gilbert Stuart work housed at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The bedroom has a Craftsman-style centered fireplace with combined mantel shelf and bookcases on each side and stained glass windows accenting the wall. The tile mural on the fireplace, common to the Arts & Crafts period, was handmade by Mission Guild Studio of New York. The stained glass windows were actually one that was split into two, the original opaque clear glass removed (because of missing pieces) and transparent beveled glass added. You'll see the whole matching window above the bathroom vanity, a late 1880s buffet. The three antique light fixtures came out of a courthouse in Kansas and the bathtub was found here in Houston, stamped "Standard Company 1924," and unusual because of its length.

The original kitchen was smaller and featured a typical enclosed back porch for food and ice deliveries. The revamped space leads out to a new screened porch designed for entertaining, including a fireplace and wet bar. The pub-height table was custom-made in North Carolina and the chandelier was designed and fabricated by Alberto Bonomi, a local designer from Italy. The carport was added in 2010 as well as the pergola.

Home sponsor: Montalbano Lumber
Florist: Embark Floral

WOODLAND HEIGHTS

WHCA NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 28
RECYCLING

MONDAY, MAY 2
JUNK WASTE PICKUP
West of Watson

SATURDAY, MAY 7
WOODLAND PARK
MOVIE NIGHT:
SECRETARIAT
Woodland Park, 8PM

MONDAY, MAY 9
JUNK WASTE PICKUP
East of Watson

TUESDAY, MAY 10
GENERAL MEETING
Zion Lutheran, 7:30PM
Speaker: Candice
Twyman of the BBB
Topic: *Identity Theft*
and You

THURSDAY, MAY 12
RECYCLING

THURSDAY, MAY 26
RECYCLING

MONDAY, MAY 30
MEMORIAL DAY



2011 Woodland Heights Home Tour A Success!



Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, sponsors and participants, the 2011 preview and home tour made more than \$20,000 to support neighborhood initiatives.

If you missed it, the preview was outstanding! It started with participants browsing through each of this year's wonderful homes, enjoying a wine and cheese tasting at each. The party at Jaileen Cook's lovely William Wilson home got rolling at 7 p.m. with delicious nibbles from many of our area restaurants, libations, toe-tapping music from

Dog Party Band and, yes, dancing. About 100 guests enjoyed the evening.

Saturday and Sunday brought good home tour weather and more than 1,000 folks took advantage, oohing and ahing over the six homes. While everyone had a favorite (all different!), each had rave reviews about the architectural, size and style diversity. Special thanks to our wonderful neighbors who graciously opened their doors to the hordes and shared what Woodland Heights living is all about. Tour participants came from all over the region: League City, Sugar Land, Spring, Kingwood, The Woodlands, Katy and more.

Finally, the inaugural Preservation Fair, a fundraiser for the Friends of Woodland Park, was a hit with vendors and visitors alike. Some 20 firms, offering products and services for restoring, renovating and improving your home, shared tips and techniques. The fair raised about \$1,600 for the park.

Joint Position Statement on Yale Street Bridge

The board of the Woodland Heights Civic Association and the boards of Washington Ave. Coalition/Memorial Park Super Neighborhood, Greater Heights Super Neighborhood, Houston Heights Assoc. and the West End Civic Club are considering becoming signatories of a Joint Position Statement contained in a letter to Mayor Parker.

That Position Statement would bring several issues to Mayor Parker's attention concerning the Yale Street bridge over White Oak Bayou, which the City has acknowledged to be inadequate to handle the anticipated commercial traffic flow - especially 18-wheelers - that the new Wal-Mart and other commercial development in the area will attract. The City has proposed routing commercial traffic to Heights Boulevard as an alternative.

The Joint Statement will suggest to Mayor Parker and the City that such a

redirection will be difficult to enforce and will likely create an unsafe situation with cars and 18-wheelers sitting idle on the Yale Street Bridge, at a weight far in excess of its 40,000 pound rating.

The Joint Proposal will therefore recommend that the City conduct an engineering review of the Yale Street Bridge and develop plans to reconstruct it so that it can handle the commercial traffic that will surely cross it.

The Statement will also suggest that no Certificate of Occupancy be issued to the Washington Heights Development until reconstruction of the Yale Street Bridge has been completed.

Other suggestions include limiting 18-wheeler traffic on Heights Boulevard and restricting traffic on the new Bass Street connection to the feeder road.

A full copy of the proposed Position Statement can be found at www.woodland-heights.org.