



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Cheek-Neal Coffee Company Building designated City Protected Landmark

HOUSTON, February 10, 2015 – The Cheek-Neal Coffee Company at 2017 Preston Street was built in 1917, for the very innovative and growing coffee business interests of Joel Owsley Cheek and John William Neal, who developed the famous Maxwell House coffee brand. The building was designed by architects Joseph Finger and James Ruskin Bailey of Houston.

Cheek and Neal formed the Nashville Coffee and Manufacturing Company, which was later renamed the Cheek-Neal Coffee Company. A second coffee plant was opened in Houston to expand their coffee business enterprise, no doubt due to the business dynamics and opportunities that Houston offered where coffee was being shipped directly to Houston's port from South America.



The Cheek-Neal Coffee Company Building is a five-story, commercial building with an attached one-story garage annex. It was constructed for structural and utilitarian purposes consistent with its use as a coffee roasting, packing and shipping facility. The building features some elements of the Arts and Crafts movement, including its ornamental parapet wall and decorative, diamond and triangular-shaped tiles which have been applied to the façade below the window sills. The property has been unoccupied for the past 45 years until the current owners took possession with plans for its restoration.

The protected designation means that the structure cannot be demolished or inappropriately altered without the approval of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission.

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