

The Opening of The Polish Home – June 2, 1918 White Oak at Studewood - Houston Heights

The roots of Houston's Polish Home began in 1891 with the formation of the Polish Social Club. This organization of eight Polish Americans soon joined the Polish National Alliance and became the Kosciuszko Lodge 165. The lodge held its meetings at members' homes and functions at rented halls. As it grew, so too did the greater Polish American community of Houston. In 1918, Dr. Stefan Wagner Mieczkowski, a real estate developer and the Kazmierowski family of builders, began campaigning to create a "Polski Dom" for the city. The community was able to raise and borrow a total of \$1,200 for the venture. On June 2, 1918, the two-story wooden structure at the corner of White Oak Drive and Studewood Street was formally opened. One of the unique features of the first Polish Home was that much of the first floor was left open to be used as a stable for horses and a garage for carriages and later cars.

Excerpt from an article on the Polish Texans Website (<http://www.polish-texans.com/2015/11/polonia-places-polish-home-of-houston/>)(<http://www.polish-texans.com/2015/11/polonia-places-polish-home-of-houston/>) written by Gregory L. Witul and originally published in the Polish American Journal

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