

ATTN: Bernadette Spitz



Total Cost - 500.00 delivered

**The Lettering on this stone is smaller than we recommend
We cannot guaranty the lettering.
Sign and fax back to 817-624-8428**

*around
Hunks to looks*


*Bernadette Spitz
1/26/09*

MEMORANDUM

Planning and Zoning
423 W. Ferguson
Tyler, TX. 75702
(903) 531- 1175 (Office)
(903) 531-1170 (Fax)

To: Fort Worth Monument Company
5811 Jacksboro Highway
Fort Worth, Texas 76114

Via fax: 817-624-8428

From: Bernadette Spitz, Senior Planner 
City of Tyler

Date: January 9, 2009

RE: Order for City of Tyler's Half Mile of History Plaque

Dear Sir:

We would like to place an order for the 17 X 17 North American stone plaque similar to the order that was placed in September 11, 2008. I believe the cost of the stone is \$475.00.

This is the language that should be on the stone:

SHIRLEY SIMONS, SR.
1896-1963

Shirley Simons, a famed architect, designed many outstanding buildings that have received national historic recognition such as City Hall and the U.S. Post Office/Courthouse. His numerous architectural designs have enhanced the Tyler vertical landscape.

Please confirm that you received this fax and also confirm potential date of delivery. Please contact me at 903-531-1175, if you have any questions.

Bernadette Spitz

From: Chris Simons
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 9:31 AM
To: Bernadette Spitz
Subject: RE: Plaque

yes,looks great ,thanks ,chris

From: Bernadette Spitz
Sent: Fri 1/16/2009 10:27 AM
To: 'Chris Simons (csimons@tylertexas.com)'
Subject: Plaque

Chris:

Please see attachment from the Fort Worth Monument Company, and please review the language - they had to cut the last sentence off because of spacing. Does this version look ok to you? Thanks, Bernadette

Bernadette Spitz
Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Officer
City of Tyler
903.531.1173
bspitz@tylertexas.com

Bernadette Spitz

From: Bernadette Spitz
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 10:27 AM
To: 'Chris Simons (csimons@tylertexas.com)'
Subject: Plaque
Attachments: Simons plaque language.pdf

Chris:

Please see attachment from the Fort Worth Monument Company, and please review the language - they had to cut the last sentence off because of spacing. Does this version look ok to you? Thanks, Bernadette

Bernadette Spitz
Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Officer
City of Tyler
903.531.1173
bspitz@tylertexas.com

Bernadette Spitz

From: Bernadette Spitz
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2008 9:02 AM
To: Chris Simons
Subject: RE: Half Mile of History

Here is the information that will be put on the plaque- please let me know if you would like to add or change anything. We only have room for about thirty words on the plaque. Thanks for your help.
Bernadette

**SHIRLEY SIMONS, SR.
1896-1963**

Shirley Simons, a famed architect, designed many outstanding buildings that have received national historic recognition such as City Hall and the U.S. Post Office/Courthouse. His numerous architectural designs have enhanced the Tyler vertical landscape.

From: Chris Simons
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2008 8:41 AM
To: Bernadette Spitz
Subject: RE: Half Mile of History

Shirley Simons Sr. is what is preferred, thanks chris simons

From: Bernadette Spitz
Sent: Thu 10/30/2008 11:48 AM
To: 'Chris Simons (csimons@tylertexas.com)'
Subject: Half Mile of History

Chris:

I am getting the language together that will go on the plaque, do you want your grandfather's name to say Shirley Simons, Sr. or Thomas Shirley Simons? In your narrative you reference both names I just want to make sure I get it correct. Thanks,

Bernadette Spitz
Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Officer
City of Tyler
903.531.1173
bspitz@tylertexas.com

Bernadette Spitz

From: Chris Simons
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2008 8:41 AM
To: Bernadette Spitz
Subject: RE: Half Mile of History

Shirley Simons Sr. is what is preferred, thanks chris simons

From: Bernadette Spitz
Sent: Thu 10/30/2008 11:48 AM
To: 'Chris Simons (csimons@tylertexas.com)'
Subject: Half Mile of History

Chris:

I am getting the language together that will go on the plaque, do you want your grandfather's name to say Shirley Simons, Sr. or Thomas Shirley Simons? In your narrative you reference both names I just want to make sure I get it correct. Thanks,

Bernadette Spitz
Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Officer
City of Tyler
903.531.1173
bspitz@tylertexas.com

423 W. Ferguson Street
(903) 531-1175 Office
(903) 531-1170 FAX



MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710

FILE COPY

CITY OF TYLER
Planning & Zoning

October 30, 2008

Councilman Chris Simons
2420 Oak Lane
Tyler, Texas 75701

Re: Half Mile of History

Dear Councilman Simons:

Congratulations! The Tyler City Council, voted to approve your request for the designation of Mr. Shirley Simons, Sr., as a Tyler Half Mile of History recipient.

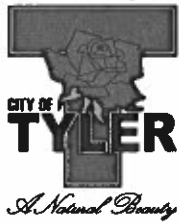
The Planning and Zoning department will order the stone and upon delivery, I will contact you to schedule the presentation in the downtown square.

Looking forward to seeing you at the presentation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Holly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Holly, AICP
Director of Planning



**CITY OF TYLER
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**



Agenda Number:

Date: October 22, 2008

Subject: Request that the City Council consider designating Shirley Simons, Sr. as a Half Mile of History recipient.

Page: 1 of 2

Item Reference: Half Mile of History Preservation Program

The Half Mile of History is a cultural and historic landmark program paying tribute to people, places and events that have contributed to the City of Tyler and/or Smith County. The Half Mile of History is a permanent, outdoor walk-around loop that covers an approximate one-half mile stretch of sidewalk surrounding the square in the heart of downtown Tyler. People, places and events chosen for the Half Mile of History are honored with a commemorative plaque placed in the sidewalk.

One of the responsibilities of the Tyler Historical Preservation Board is to recommend people, places and events to be included in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. On October 1, 2008, the Tyler Historical Preservation Board voted unanimously to recommend Shirley Simons, Sr. for inclusion in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. A brief narrative follows.

Shirley Simons, Sr. a distinguished graduate of the Rice University School of Architecture from 1919, practiced in Houston and Lufkin upon graduation. In 1928, he relocated his family and office to Tyler, Texas. In Tyler, his architectural practice prospered and Shirley was actively involved in its day-to-day operation until his death in 1963. He was one of the earliest architects to be licensed under the 1936 registration law for architects in the State of Texas. He practiced for 45 years with great scope and variety to his work; he used various design styles such as Tudor, Classical Revival and Moderne. His accomplishments included private residences, public schools, university buildings, hospitals, churches, and municipal buildings, as well as commercial, institutional and industrial projects that span across Texas.

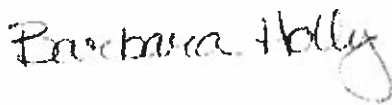
Mr. Simons has left a distinguished legacy to the City of Tyler with the many architecturally distinguished buildings that he designed. The list of projects is lengthy; some of but the more outstanding projects located in Tyler are: City Hall, the Woman's Building, the original United States Post Office/Courthouse and the major remodel in 1942 of Marvin United Methodist Church. These buildings are major accomplishments of Mr. Simon's excellent work and subsequently have been awarded either a National Registry of Historic Places or a Tyler Landmark Register of Historic Places designation. His work as the principal architect for numerous other projects across the state include the Houston Museum of Art, the Austin Daily

Tribune building, the Student Health Center at the University of Texas in Austin as well as the expansion at the campus of Stephen F. Austin University.

In addition to his professional accomplishments he was active in both civic and church affairs in both Lufkin and Tyler. Shirley Simons truly enhanced the built, vertical landscape of not only Tyler but many other cities throughout Texas and is most deserving of the Half Mile of History recognition.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Tyler Historical Preservation Board recommends, by a vote of 8-0, that the City Council designate Shirley Simons, Sr. as a Half Mile of History recipient.



Drafted/Recommended By: Barbara Holly
Department Leader

Edited/Submitted By:
City Manager Designate

**City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board
Attention: Half Mile of History
P. O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710**

Enclosed please find the Nomination Form for Half Mile of History and the accompanying two page narrative outlining the works and accomplishments of Shirley Simons, Sr., Architect, Tyler, Texas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Shirley Simons
Christopher Shirley Simons



**NOMINATION FORM
HALF MILE OF HISTORY**

Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event: _____

The nominee is being honored for outstanding contributions in the area(s) of (please check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention/Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

Section B: Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: CHRIS SIMONS

Address: 2420 OAK LANE

City: TYLER State: TEXAS Zip: 75701

Daytime telephone: _____ Email: _____

Relationship to nominated individual:

GRANDSON

Nominated Individual's year of death: 1963

Section C: Narrative

The narrative section of the application is the most important. It is the primary source of information judges use to make their selection of new inductees. Two (2) typed pages of 12-point type is the maximum acceptable length of the narrative. Any additional material will be referred to only for verification of accuracy of the nomination. No submitted materials will be returned.

The narrative section must contain an explanation of the nominee's enduring contribution that make this person/place/event worthy of the honor. Please describe the impact the nominee has had on the community, county, region, nation and/or world. For Individuals, please include any honors earned by the nominee as well as a list of organizations in which the nominee has been involved. Also, please indicate their educational background as well as the length of time the individual has lived in Smith County. Inclusion of photos is preferred but optional. Do not send original photos. All submitted materials will become property of the City of Tyler and its Historical Preservation Board.

Please submit nominations to:
City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board
Attention: Half Mile of History
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710

I am pleased to nominate one of Tyler's earliest resident architects, my grandfather, Shirley Simons, Sr. for consideration in the Half Mile of History program. Thomas Shirley Simons was born on March 12, 1896 on a farm outside of Taylor, Texas in Williamson County. The Simons family moved in 1906 to a homestead outside of Fort Worth. Shirley Simons was educated in the public schools of Taylor and Fort Worth. A 1914 graduate of Ft. Worth's Northside High School, Simons was an all-state football player and earned an athletic scholarship to Rice Institute. In 1914, Simons enrolled in the School of Architecture at Rice and graduated in 1919 with a B.A. degree and a B.S. degree in Architecture. He was a founding member of the Architectural Society at Rice and subsequently served as its President.

After graduation, Simons practiced architecture for three years in the firm of William Ward Watkin, his mentor at Rice who also served as Chairman of the Architecture School and was one of the State's preeminent architects. Simons married Mollie Mantooth of Lufkin and moved there in 1922 to set up his own practice. After a successful early career in Lufkin, Simons relocated his family and office in 1928 to Tyler in order to be closer to the new oil boom in the giant East Texas field. His architectural practice grew and prospered in Tyler and he was actively involved in its day to day operation until his death on August 3, 1963 at the age of 66. Simons raised six children in Tyler. His three sons, upon completion of their educations, each joined their father's firm and were all general partners in the firm of Shirley Simons and Sons, Architect & Engineer at the time of his death.

The list of distinguished projects attributed to Shirley Simons is lengthy. He was one of the earliest architects (#183) to be licensed under the 1936 registration law for architects in the State of Texas. His practice, spanning forty-five years, was notably wide in scope and variety. Surviving examples of Simons' work underscore his excellent command of a remarkable range of architectural design styles as varied as Tudor, Classical Revival and Moderne. He designed private residences, public schools and university buildings, hospitals, churches, and municipal buildings, as well as, commercial, institutional and industrial projects. One important project was Mother Francis Hospital, Chapel/Convent, and subsequent additions. As an historical aside, the project was opened days ahead of schedule to accommodate victims of the devastating New London school explosion. Simons' work contributed significantly to the development of Tyler as the cultural center of East Texas. It was the early shared vision of Mr. Simons and Dr. C.C. McDonald that led to the conception, land purchase, and execution of a state-of-the-art hospital (Medical Center Hospital- now East Texas Medical Center) and surrounding medical complex to serve Tyler and the greater East Texas community. Other notable projects that helped shape and define Tyler include numerous private residences (see list of works attached), the main façade and various other buildings at Tyler Junior College, the Woman's Building, the original U.S. Post Office/Courthouse, the City Hall, the Masonic Lodge and a major remodel in 1942 of the main sanctuary, and the later addition of a chapel, to Marvin United Methodist Church. Yet notably, Tyler was not the sole beneficiary of Mr. Simons' talents. Simons was the principal architect for numerous important projects across the State, including the Houston Museum of Art (1920), the San Augustine

(1927), the Austin Daily Tribune building (National Registry listing) and Student Health Center at The University of Texas, as well as a comprehensive 10-year master plan expansion at the campus of Stephen F. Austin University during the years 1949–1958.

Simons enjoyed many accolades during his career, but perhaps the most significant in terms of portraying his professional impact are the national and state awards bestowed upon his works by various preservation and historic programs. These designations set him apart from his peers and acknowledge the enduring impact his contributions have had, not only on the Tyler community and East Texas region, but also on Texas and the U.S. As early as 1934, Mr. Simons was recognized in an architectural publication featuring important Texas architects and their works. In addition, his work has been recognized eight times by the National Registry of Historic Places. This is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Tyler Federal Building is one of the eight prestigious listings, while five others are residences in Lufkin and Tyler. The Simons' family home in Tyler, built in 1931 at 118 W. Fourth Street, was recently added to the National Registry after having been re-purposed into law offices. Another Tyler home designed by Simons for Eli Assof and built in 1936 at 1619 S. Chilton also bears a National Registry plaque. In addition to these national distinctions, the State of Texas has recognized several buildings in Simons' portfolio with the Texas Historical Marker. These include a previous Half Mile of History recipient, the Women's Building, as well as, Marvin United Methodist Church. On the local level, a review of the list of historic properties included in the Tyler Landmark Register of Historic Places includes five projects attributed to Simons.

In addition to his many enduring professional accomplishments, Shirley Simons was active in the civic and social affairs of both Lufkin and Tyler. He served on the Board of Directors of the Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Company from 1939 - 1950. He was a longtime, active member of the First Christian Church in Lufkin and Tyler. He served the church in many capacities: Sunday school teacher, elder and deacon, as well as on numerous boards, commissions and committees. Mr. Simons was in great demand by organizations and causes of every description. He was an accomplished and sought-after speaker known for his entertaining delivery. Copies of several of his early speeches, including one given in 1928 to the Lufkin Lion's Club Annual Banquet, are housed at the Museum of East Texas in Lufkin. In addition, 31 photographs of Simons' architecture during his tenure in Lufkin are catalogued there. Another fifteen photos of works executed during 1920-1949 are catalogued at the Kurth Memorial Library in Lufkin.

While my grandfather's love for his work and devotion to his profession are clear, and can be observed today in his many surviving projects throughout Texas, it ranked immediately below his love and dedication to God and his family on his life's scale of priorities. It can truly be said that his profession was also his hobby, and in this he counted himself extremely fortunate. The Half Mile of History would be a fitting honor of recognition for this man who contributed so much to our city's historical development, our community and State through his life's passion for architecture and design.

Sources:

East Texas Calling: The Centennial History of the Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Exchange,
by Bob Bowman

City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board. www.historictyler.org

National Registry of Historic Places. www.nationalregistryofhistoricplaces.com

Texas Historical Commission. www.thc.state.tx.us

The Portal to Texas History. www.texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6632:1

Google Search: Shirley Simons Architect

**Listing of Simons' Architecture projects compiled from business and family archives.
(2001)**

**Letter from Shirley Simons, Jr. to Mrs. Nancy C. Wilson, Museum of East Texas, Lufkin,
TX (1992)**

**Photographic archives of Simons' Architecture located at Kurth Memorial Library and
Museum of East Texas as summarized by Mrs. Nancy C. Wilson, Museum of East Texas,
Lufkin, TX (1992)**

Simons Architecture
Early Projects - Pre-1950

PUBLIC/CIVIC BUILDINGS

<u>PROJECT NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
U.S. Federal Building (original Post Office)	Tyler		1930's
City Hall	Tyler		early 30's
NOTE: Tyler's City Hall was recognized in the 1940 edition of <u>Texas Architecture</u>			
E. Erwin Fire Station	Tyler		
North College Fire Station	Tyler		
Women's Building	Tyler		
Masonic Lodge	Tyler		
Willow Brook Country Club	Tyler		
U.S. Post Office	Sulphur Springs		
Pounds Field Airport	Tyler		
Texas Theater (or Texan Theater?)	Overton		

SCHOOLS/COLLEGES

Univ. of Texas at Austin Health Center	Austin		
Dixie Elem. School	Tyler		
Rice Elem. School	Tyler	Old Bullard Rd.	early 60's
Emmett Scott High School	Tyler		
Emmett Scott Gymnasium	Tyler		
Ramey Elementary School	Tyler		
St. Gregory Catholic School	Tyler		
Tyler Jr. College Administration Bldg, Classrooms, Student Union, Library (later known as Study Hall), (4) Dorms, Gymnasium, Wise Auditorium, C&O Bldg.	Tyler	5th Street	
Tyler High School: Administration Bldg, Classrooms, Auditorium (now Caldwell)	Tyler	Downtown	1930's
North Tyler School	Tyler		
Brownsboro High School	Brownsboro		
Lindale High School with WPA	Lindale		
Texas State College for Women (now TWC) Science Building and (2) Dorms	Denton		1930's
NOTE: The Science bldg. was recognized & pictured in 1940 edition of <u>Texas Architecture</u>.			
East Texas College (now ETSU) Library and (2) Dorms	Commerce		
Stephen F. Austin Campus Schematic, SFA Classrooms, Admin/office building, SFA President's Residence, Library, Auditorium & Fine Arts Bldg, Men's Dorm, Women's Dormitory	Nacogdoches		
Lindale Independent School	Lindale		
Teague Public Schools	Teague		
Zavalla Public Schools	Zavalla		

Simons Architecture
Early Projects - Pre-1950

HOSPITALS/CLINICS

Rusk State Hospital, T&R Bldg.	Rusk	
City of Tyler Hospital (Trinity Mother Francis) (Several additions and remodelling in later yrs)	Tyler	Front St.
Mother Frances Chapel & Convent	Tyler	Front St.
Smith County Hospital (E. Texas Medical Ctr.) Layout/schematic for entire medical complex including hospital, clinics, doctor offices (Several additions made in later years to bring total cost of construction to \$27million)	Tyler	Front St.
Univ. of Texas Health Science Center McMillian Clinic	Tyler Overton	1970's

CHURCHES

Marvin Methodist (significant remodel to main sanctuary; other additions and alterations in later years)	Tyler	Downtown
Marvin Methodist Parsonage	Tyler	
Calvary Baptist Church	Tyler	
First Christian Church alterations; new church in later years)	Tyler	S. Broadway
St. Paul's Methodist	Tyler	
Cedar Street Methodist Church	Tyler	
First Baptist Church Classroom Addition	Tyler	Downtown
Immaculate Conception Catholic remodel	Tyler	Broadway
First Presbyterian Church	Overton	
First Baptist Church	Lindale	
First Baptist Church	Van	1950's
First Baptist Church	Arp	
First Baptist Church	Athens	
First Baptist Church	Jacksonville	
First Baptist Church	Sulphur Springs	
First Baptist Church	Center	
Memorial Methodist Church	Mt. Pleasant	
Tennison Methodist Chapel	Mt. Pleasant	
St. Marks Methodist Church	Baytown	

COMMERCIAL

Baker Tank Office & Shop	Arp	
Tribune Tower Bldg.	Austin	Congress (?)
Christian Fellowship Camp	Brownsboro	
Temple Lumber Co.	Dioball	
Morton Salt Office	Grand Saline	
Kengera Hardware Co.	Henderson	
Kinsey Office Bldg.	Lindale	
Lufkin Telephone Hdqts. (LCTX)	Lufkin	
Fountain Drug	San Augustine	
Ashcroft Motor Co.	Sulphur Springs	
Coca Cola Bottling Co.	Sulphur Springs	

Simons Architecture
Early Projects - Pre-1950

Bryce Cafeteria	Texarkana		
Leon's Slipper Shoppe (Leon's on the Square)	Tyler	Downtown Square	
Mayer & Schmitt Store	Tyler		
Holley Motor Company	Tyler	Downtown Square	
Hightower Apartments	Tyler		
The Brass Lion (retail 1st floor, home 2nd fl.)	Tyler	S. Broadway	early 70's

RESIDENCES

Shirley Simons, Sr. (Loftis, et al Law Firm)	Tyler	118 West Fourth St.	1929
R. J. McMurrey, Sr. (Rodgers now)	Tyler	West 6th	early 30's
Robert W. Fair (Tolbert now)	Tyler	Chilton	early 30's
NOTE: (The 3 homes above were recognized & pictured in the 1940 edition of <u>Texas Architecture</u>)			
L.W. Callendar (Pyron now)	Tyler	Highland Park division	
B. C. Floyd	Tyler	Highland Park division	
Fred W. Weeks	Tyler	Roseland Dr.	
Marvin McMurrey (Rodgers now)	Tyler	West 6th	
James C. Wynne, Jr. (Faulconner now))	Tyler	Chilton	
Howard Bryant, MD (Preston Smith now)	Tyler	Chilton	
James A. Bracken	Tyler	Chilton	
Luther Kay (Frances Kay now)	Tyler	6th Street	
Hugh E. White	Tyler	Broadway	
Paul Scott (Whitney now)	Tyler	Chilton	
G. C. Clark (Hardy now)	Tyler	Chilton	
John L. Dellinger (Yale now)	Tyler	Old Bullard Road	
S. Otto Craft	Tyler	Highland Park division	
Farve Baldwin	Tyler		
Watson W. Wise (Young now)	Tyler	Chilton	
William A. Huff (Harley Hooper)	Tyler	Chilton	
O. M. Boren (Mike MacArthur, MD)	Tyler	Broadway	
Tom W. Joyner	Tyler	Lindsay Lane	
Jack Woldert, Sr. (Livezey now)	Tyler	7th street	
Pace (Rick & Jane, MD now)	Tyler	College St.	
Taylor (Smith Reynolds now)	Tyler	6th Street/College	
L. A. Grelling (Hilliard now)	Tyler	8th Street	
Clayton Shirley, MD (E. Stringer now)	Tyler	Old Bullard Rd.	
Stewart (Cowan-Gibson now)	Tyler	College St.	
W.A. Brookshire (Carr now)	Tyler	College St.	
Barnett	Tyler	College St.	
Dewey Lawrence (Kay Garland now)	Tyler	Park Heights Circle	
W.A. Brookshire (2nd home)	Tyler	Park Heights Circle	
R. J. McMurrey, Jr.	Tyler	7th street	
Paul Price	Tyler	College/2nd St.	
H. L. Hunt (renovation & addition) (now B&B)	Tyler	Charmwood	
Claude Holley (remodel & addition)	Tyler	Charmwood	
Mrs. J.J. Brown (remodel & addition)	Tyler		
Horace (Bruce) McMillian, MD	Overton		
Adli Harmon	Arp		
F. R. Jackson	Longview		

**Simons Architecture
Early Projects - Pre-1950**

J. W. Faivey	Longview		
H. Gilbert McGrede	Sulphur Springs		
B. F. Ashcroft	Sulphur Springs		
Roy B. Terry	Kilgore		
T. W. Lee	Gladewater		
John Ben Sheppard	Gladewater		
L. M. Shipp	Henderson		
F. B. McKee	Corsicana		
Shirley Simons, Jr.	Tyler	Cherokee Trail	1968
Watson Simons, Sr.	Tyler	Fry Ave.	1955
Edwin Simons	Tyler	849 Colonial Drive	1976

NOTE: This list of projects is pre-1950 unless otherwise noted.
 We are trying to get more specific dates for you... especially pre-WWII projects.
 I also have another list of projects undertaken in the second half of the century
 once Shirley, Jr. and Edwin joined the firm in 1950 and 1951 respectively.

NOTE: I am missing the early Lufkin projects which were executed during
 the years Shirley Simons lived there after moving from Houston. I have
 made an inquiry of a Lufkin relative who is getting this information for me. These
 projects (some churches, residences, etc) would be from the period of 1924 - 1928.

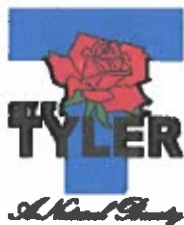
City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board
Attention: Half Mile of History
P. O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710

Enclosed please find the Nomination Form for Half Mile of History and the accompanying two page narrative outlining the works and accomplishments of Shirley Simons, Sr., Architect, Tyler, Texas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Christopher Shirley Simons



**NOMINATION FORM
HALF MILE OF HISTORY**

Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event: _____

The nominee is being honored for outstanding contributions in the area(s) of (please check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention/Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

Section B: Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: CHRIS SIMONS

Address: 2420 OAK LANE

City: TYLER State: TEXAS Zip: 75701

Daytime telephone: _____ Email: _____

Relationship to nominated individual:

GRANDSON

Nominated Individual's year of death: 1963

Section C: Narrative

The narrative section of the application is the most important. It is the primary source of information judges use to make their selection of new inductees. Two (2) typed pages of 12-point type is the maximum acceptable length of the narrative. Any additional material will be referred to only for verification of accuracy of the nomination. No submitted materials will be returned.

The narrative section must contain an explanation of the nominee's enduring contribution that make this person/place/event worthy of the honor. Please describe the impact the nominee has had on the community, county, region, nation and/or world. For Individuals, please include any honors earned by the nominee as well as a list of organizations in which the nominee has been involved. Also, please indicate their educational background as well as the length of time the individual has lived in Smith County. Inclusion of photos is preferred but optional. Do not send original photos. All submitted materials will become property of the City of Tyler and its Historical Preservation Board.

Please submit nominations to:

City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board
Attention: Half Mile of History
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710

I am pleased to nominate one of Tyler's earliest resident architects, my grandfather, Shirley Simons, Sr. for consideration in the Half Mile of History program. Thomas Shirley Simons was born on March 12, 1896 on a farm outside of Taylor, Texas in Williamson County. The Simons family moved in 1906 to a homestead outside of Fort Worth. Shirley Simons was educated in the public schools of Taylor and Fort Worth. A 1914 graduate of Ft. Worth's Northside High School, Simons was an all-state football player and earned an athletic scholarship to Rice Institute. In 1914, Simons enrolled in the School of Architecture at Rice and graduated in 1919 with a B.A. degree and a B.S. degree in Architecture. He was a founding member of the Architectural Society at Rice and subsequently served as its President.

After graduation, Simons practiced architecture for three years in the firm of William Ward Watkin, his mentor at Rice who also served as Chairman of the Architecture School and was one of the State's preeminent architects. Simons married Mollie Mantooth of Lufkin and moved there in 1922 to set up his own practice. After a successful early career in Lufkin, Simons relocated his family and office in 1928 to Tyler in order to be closer to the new oil boom in the giant East Texas field. His architectural practice grew and prospered in Tyler and he was actively involved in its day to day operation until his death on August 3, 1963 at the age of 66. Simons raised six children in Tyler. His three sons, upon completion of their educations, each joined their father's firm and were all general partners in the firm of Shirley Simons and Sons, Architect & Engineer at the time of his death.

The list of distinguished projects attributed to Shirley Simons is lengthy. He was one of the earliest architects (#183) to be licensed under the 1936 registration law for architects in the State of Texas. His practice, spanning forty-five years, was notably wide in scope and variety. Surviving examples of Simons' work underscore his excellent command of a remarkable range of architectural design styles as varied as Tudor, Classical Revival and Moderne. He designed private residences, public schools and university buildings, hospitals, churches, and municipal buildings, as well as, commercial, institutional and industrial projects. One important project was Mother Francis Hospital, Chapel/Convent, and subsequent additions. As an historical aside, the project was opened days ahead of schedule to accommodate victims of the devastating New London school explosion. Simons' work contributed significantly to the development of Tyler as the cultural center of East Texas. It was the early shared vision of Mr. Simons and Dr. C.C. McDonald that led to the conception, land purchase, and execution of a state-of-the-art hospital (Medical Center Hospital- now East Texas Medical Center) and surrounding medical complex to serve Tyler and the greater East Texas community. Other notable projects that helped shape and define Tyler include numerous private residences (see list of works attached), the main façade and various other buildings at Tyler Junior College, the Woman's Building, the original U.S. Post Office/Courthouse, the City Hall, the Masonic Lodge and a major remodel in 1942 of the main sanctuary, and the later addition of a chapel, to Marvin United Methodist Church. Yet notably, Tyler was not the sole beneficiary of Mr. Simons' talents. Simons was the principal architect for numerous important projects across the State, including the Houston Museum of Art (1920), the San Augustine

(1927), the Austin Daily Tribune building (National Registry listing) and Student Health Center at The University of Texas, as well as a comprehensive 10-year master plan expansion at the campus of Stephen F. Austin University during the years 1949–1958.

Simons enjoyed many accolades during his career, but perhaps the most significant in terms of portraying his professional impact are the national and state awards bestowed upon his works by various preservation and historic programs. These designations set him apart from his peers and acknowledge the enduring impact his contributions have had, not only on the Tyler community and East Texas region, but also on Texas and the U.S. As early as 1934, Mr. Simons was recognized in an architectural publication featuring important Texas architects and their works. In addition, his work has been recognized eight times by the **National Registry of Historic Places**. This is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Tyler Federal Building is one of the eight prestigious listings, while five others are residences in Lufkin and Tyler. The Simons' family home in Tyler, built in 1931 at 118 W. Fourth Street, was recently added to the National Registry after having been re-purposed into law offices. Another Tyler home designed by Simons for Eli Assof and built in 1936 at 1619 S. Chilton also bears a National Registry plaque. In addition to these national distinctions, the State of Texas has recognized several buildings in Simons' portfolio with the **Texas Historical Marker**. These include a previous Half Mile of History recipient, the Women's Building, as well as, Marvin United Methodist Church. On the local level, a review of the list of historic properties included in the Tyler Landmark Register of Historic Places includes five projects attributed to Simons.

In addition to his many enduring professional accomplishments, Shirley Simons was active in the civic and social affairs of both Lufkin and Tyler. He served on the Board of Directors of the Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Company from 1939 - 1950. He was a longtime, active member of the First Christian Church in Lufkin and Tyler. He served the church in many capacities: Sunday school teacher, elder and deacon, as well as on numerous boards, commissions and committees. Mr. Simons was in great demand by organizations and causes of every description. He was an accomplished and sought-after speaker known for his entertaining delivery. Copies of several of his early speeches, including one given in 1928 to the Lufkin Lion's Club Annual Banquet, are housed at the Museum of East Texas in Lufkin. In addition, 31 photographs of Simons' architecture during his tenure in Lufkin are catalogued there. Another fifteen photos of works executed during 1920-1949 are catalogued at the Kurth Memorial Library in Lufkin.

While my grandfather's love for his work and devotion to his profession are clear, and can be observed today in his many surviving projects throughout Texas, it ranked immediately below his love and dedication to God and his family on his life's scale of priorities. It can truly be said that his profession was also his hobby, and in this he counted himself extremely fortunate. The Half Mile of History would be a fitting honor of recognition for this man who contributed so much to our city's historical development, our community and State through his life's passion for architecture and design.

Sources:

East Texas Calling: The Centennial History of the Lufkin-Conroe Telephone Exchange,
by Bob Bowman

City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board. www.historictyler.org

National Registry of Historic Places. www.nationalregistryofhistoricplaces.com

Texas Historical Commission. www.thc.state.tx.us

The Portal to Texas History. www.texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6632:1

Google Search: Shirley Simons Architect

Listing of Simons' Architecture projects compiled from business and family archives.
(2001)

Letter from Shirley Simons, Jr. to Mrs. Nancy C. Wilson, Museum of East Texas, Lufkin,
TX (1992)

Photographic archives of Simons' Architecture located at Kurth Memorial Library and
Museum of East Texas as summarized by Mrs. Nancy C. Wilson, Museum of East Texas,
Lufkin, TX (1992)

Simons Architecture
Early Projects - Pre-1950

PUBLIC/CIVIC BUILDINGS

<u>PROJECT NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
U.S. Federal Building (original Post Office)	Tyler		1930's
City Hall	Tyler		early 30's
NOTE: Tyler's City Hall was recognized in the 1940 edition of <u>Texas Architecture</u>			
E. Erwin Fire Station	Tyler		
North College Fire Station	Tyler		
Women's Building	Tyler		
Masonic Lodge	Tyler		
Willow Brook Country Club	Tyler		
U.S. Post Office	Sulphur Springs		
Pounds Field Airport	Tyler		
Texas Theater (or Texan Theater?)	Overton		

SCHOOLS/COLLEGES

Univ. of Texas at Austin Health Center	Austin		
Dixie Elem. School	Tyler		
Rice Elem. School	Tyler	Old Bullard Rd.	early 60's
Emmett Scott High School	Tyler		
Emmett Scott Gymnasium	Tyler		
Ramey Elementary School	Tyler		
St. Gregory Catholic School	Tyler		
Tyler Jr. College Administration Bldg, Classrooms, Student Union, Library (later known as Study Hall), (4) Dorms, Gymnasium, Wise Auditorium, C&O Bldg.	Tyler	5th Street	
Tyler High School: Administration Bldg, Classrooms, Auditorium (now Caldwell)	Tyler	Downtown	1930's
North Tyler School	Tyler		
Brownsboro High School	Brownsboro		
Lindale High School with WPA	Lindale		
Texas State College for Women (now TWC) Science Building and (2) Dorms	Denton		1930's
NOTE: The Science bldg. was recognized & pictured in 1940 edition of <u>Texas Architecture</u>.			
East Texas College (now ETSU) Library and (2) Dorms	Commerce		
Stephen F. Austin Campus Schematic, SFA Classrooms, Admin/office building, SFA President's Residence, Library, Auditorium & Fine Arts Bldg, Men's Dorm, Women's Dormitory	Nacogdoches		
Lindale Independent School	Lindale		
Teague Public Schools	Teague		
Zavalla Public Schools	Zavalla		

Simons Architecture
Early Projects - Pre-1950

HOSPITALS/CLINICS

Rusk State Hospital, T&R Bldg.	Rusk	
City of Tyler Hospital (Trinity Mother Francis) (Several additions and remodelling in later yrs)	Tyler	Front St.
Mother Frances Chapel & Convent	Tyler	Front St.
Smith County Hospital (E. Texas Medical Ctr.) Layout/schematic for entire medical complex including hospital, clinics, doctor offices (Several additions made in later years to bring total cost of construction to \$27million)	Tyler	Front St.
Univ. of Texas Health Science Center	Tyler	
McMillian Clinic	Overton	1970's

CHURCHES

Marvin Methodist (significant remodel to main sanctuary; other additions and alterations in later years)	Tyler	Downtown
Marvin Methodist Parsonage	Tyler	
Calvary Baptist Church	Tyler	
First Christian Church alterations; new church in later years)	Tyler	S. Broadway
St. Paul's Methodist	Tyler	
Cedar Street Methodist Church	Tyler	
First Baptist Church Classroom Addition	Tyler	Downtown
Immaculate Conception Catholic remodel	Tyler	Broadway
First Presbyterian Church	Overton	
First Baptist Church	Lindale	
First Baptist Church	Van	1950's
First Baptist Church	Arp	
First Baptist Church	Athens	
First Baptist Church	Jacksonville	
First Baptist Church	Sulphur Springs	
First Baptist Church	Center	
Memorial Methodist Church	Mt. Pleasant	
Tennison Methodist Chapel	Mt. Pleasant	
St. Marks Methodist Church	Baytown	

COMMERCIAL

Baker Tank Office & Shop	Arp	
Tribune Tower Bldg.	Austin	Congress (?)
Christian Fellowship Camp	Brownsboro	
Temple Lumber Co.	Dioball	
Morton Salt Office	Grand Saline	
Kengera Hardware Co.	Henderson	
Kinsey Office Bldg.	Lindale	
Lufkin Telephone Hdqts. (LCTX)	Lufkin	
Fountain Drug	San Augustine	
Ashcroft Motor Co.	Sulphur Springs	
Coca Cola Bottling Co.	Sulphur Springs	

Simons Architecture
Early Projects - Pre-1950

Bryce Cafeteria	Texarkana		
Leon's Slipper Shoppe (Leon's on the Square)	Tyler	Downtown Square	
Mayer & Schmitt Store	Tyler		
Holley Motor Company	Tyler	Downtown Square	
Hightower Apartments	Tyler		
The Brass Lion (retail 1st floor, home 2nd fl.)	Tyler	S. Broadway	early 70's

RESIDENCES

Shirley Simons, Sr. (Loftis, et al Law Firm)	Tyler	118 West Fourth St.	1929
R. J. McMurrey, Sr. (Rodgers now)	Tyler	West 6th	early 30's
Robert W. Fair (Tolbert now)	Tyler	Chilton	early 30's
NOTE: (The 3 homes above were recognized & pictured in the 1940 edition of <u>Texas Architecture</u>)			
L.W. Callendar (Pyron now)	Tyler	Highland Park division	
B. C. Floyd	Tyler	Highland Park division	
Fred W. Weeks	Tyler	Roseland Dr.	
Marvin McMurrey (Rodgers now)	Tyler	West 6th	
James C. Wynne, Jr. (Faulconner now))	Tyler	Chilton	
Howard Bryant, MD (Preston Smith now)	Tyler	Chilton	
James A. Bracken	Tyler	Chilton	
Luther Kay (Frances Kay now)	Tyler	6th Street	
Hugh E. White	Tyler	Broadway	
Paul Scott (Whitney now)	Tyler	Chilton	
G. C. Clark (Hardy now)	Tyler	Chilton	
John L. Dellinger (Yale now)	Tyler	Old Bullard Road	
S. Otto Craft	Tyler	Highland Park division	
Farve Baldwin	Tyler		
Watson W. Wise (Young now)	Tyler	Chilton	
William A. Huff (Harley Hooper)	Tyler	Chilton	
O. M. Boren (Mike MacArthur, MD)	Tyler	Broadway	
Tom W. Joyner	Tyler	Lindsay Lane	
Jack Woldert, Sr. (Livezey now)	Tyler	7th street	
Pace (Rick & Jane, MD now)	Tyler	College St.	
Taylor (Smith Reynolds now)	Tyler	6th Street/College	
L. A. Grelling (Hilliard now)	Tyler	8th Street	
Clayton Shirley, MD (E. Stringer now)	Tyler	Old Bullard Rd.	
Stewart (Cowan-Gibson now)	Tyler	College St.	
W.A. Brookshire (Carr now)	Tyler	College St.	
Barnett	Tyler	College St.	
Dewey Lawrence (Kay Garland now)	Tyler	Park Heights Circle	
W.A. Brookshire (2nd home)	Tyler	Park Heights Circle	
R. J. McMurrey, Jr.	Tyler	7th street	
Paul Price	Tyler	College/2nd St.	
H. L. Hunt (renovation & addition) (now B&B)	Tyler	Chamwood	
Claude Holley (remodel & addition)	Tyler	Chamwood	
Mrs. J.J. Brown (remodel & addition)	Tyler		
Horace (Bruce) McMillian, MD	Overton		
Adli Harmon	Arp		
F. R. Jackson	Longview		

Simons Architecture
Early Projects - Pre-1950

J. W. Falvey	Longview		
H. Gilbert McGrede	Sulphur Springs		
B. F. Ashcroft	Sulphur Springs		
Roy B. Terry	Kilgore		
T. W. Lee	Gladewater		
John Ben Sheppard	Gladewater		
L. M. Shipp	Henderson		
F. B. McKee	Corsicana		
Shirley Simons, Jr.	Tyler	Cherokee Trail	1968
Watson Simons, Sr.	Tyler	Fry Ave.	1955
Edwin Simons	Tyler	849 Colonial Drive	1976

NOTE: This list of projects is pre-1950 unless otherwise noted.
We are trying to get more specific dates for you... especially pre-WWII projects.
I also have another list of projects undertaken in the second half of the century
once Shirley, Jr. and Edwin joined the firm in 1950 and 1951 respectively.

NOTE: I am missing the early Lufkin projects which were executed during
the years Shirley Simons lived there after moving from Houston. I have
made an inquiry of a Lufkin relative who is getting this information for me. These
projects (some churches, residences, etc) would be from the period of 1924 - 1928.

Mr. Henry Marsh Bell was born in Tyler on April 6, 1893. His first job after graduating from high school was as a runner for Citizens First National Bank. He served the bank for 38 years, eventually becoming bank president. He also served as president of both the Tyler Chamber of Commerce and the East Texas Chamber of Commerce. During the oil boom era, Bell was instrumental in promoting Tyler as the banking, legal and commercial center of East Texas.

Mr. Bell was very involved in the economic development of Tyler and East Texas; in 1944 he and other business leaders organized and created the Tyler Industrial Foundation. Bell also served as president of the East Texas Medical Foundation, another outcome of the Tyler Industrial Foundation's effort. Through these and many other efforts in promoting Tyler, Henry Bell was dubbed "Mr. Tyler".

Shirley Simons, Sr., a distinguished graduate of the Rice University School of Architecture, practiced in Houston and Lufkin upon his graduation in 1919. In 1928, he relocated his family and office to Tyler, Texas.

In Tyler, his architectural practice prospered and Shirley was actively involved in its day-to-day operation until his death in 1963. He was one of the earliest architects to be licensed under the 1936 registration law for architects in the State of Texas. Mr. Simons practiced for 45 years with great scope and variety to his work, and he used various design styles such as Tudor, Classical Revival and Modern. His accomplishments included private residences, public schools, university buildings, hospitals, churches, and municipal buildings, as well as commercial, institutional and industrial projects that span across Texas.

*State Mile of History
Marker Unveiling
in honor of Henry Marsh Bell
and Shirley Simons, Sr.
Thursday, April 9, 2009*

Opening Remarks: Mayor Barbara Bass

Simons Biography: City Manager Mark McDaniel

Comments by Simons Family Representative

Bell Biography: Barbara Kelly

Comments by Bell Family Representative

Unveiling of Markers

Certificate Presentation

s. Adair