

**OFFICERS**

Shelly Hemingson
President
Alyson McGee
President-Elect
Bratten Thomason
First Vice President
Lin Team
Second Vice President

Kim McKnight
Secretary
Vanessa McElwrath
Treasurer
Tere O'Connell
Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Paula Aaronson
Sabrina Brown
Lisa Byrd
Clay Cary
Danette Chimenti
Sam Davidson
John Donisi

Lauren Smith Ford
Ann S. Graham
Jerry Harris
Chris Hendel
Ken Johnson
Saundra Kirk
Richard Kooris

Tim League
Jennifer Marsh
Scott Mason
Dennis McDaniel
Andrea McWilliams
Stephen Webb

VOTING REPRESENTATIVES

Michael Holleran, UT School of Arch
John Rosato, Landmark Commission
Michelle Slattery, Inherit Austin
Mike Ward, Pioneer Farms

STAFF

Kate Singleton
Executive Director

July 20, 2015

Historic Landmarks Commission
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767
Via Email

Re: Ada and Luther Simond House

Dear Historic Landmark Commission members,

The Board of Directors of Preservation Austin is thrilled to have the opportunity to express our support for the landmark designation (H zoning) of the Ada and Luther Simond House. Not only is this home a unique example in Austin of 20th Century Norman-Tudor Revival style architecture, it was the home of Ada Deblanc Yerwood Simond for 50 years. Ada Simond was an important figure in public health at the state level, working as a field representative for the Texas Tuberculosis Association. After retiring she continued to have an impact on the Austin community as an activist, writer and educator on African-American history. She wrote series of children's books based on her own experiences as a child and a column for the Austin American Statesman titled "Looking Back", highlighting Austin's lesser known black residents. She was one of the founders of the George Washington Carver Museum and the W.H. Passon Historical Society and the recipient of numerous awards from local and state level entities. Her beloved husband Luther Simond was a well-respected elementary school principal, and her son Gerald Askey was an Academy Award winning music arranger, composer and producer.

The current owners of the home are seeking landmark designation to provide long-term protection of the home and to honor the memory of Ada and Luther Simond for future generations.

We respectfully request the Historic Landmark Commission recommend landmark designation recommend H zoning for the Ada and Luther Simond House.

Very sincerely,

Shelly Hemingson

**OFFICERS**

Shelly Hemingson
President
Alyson McGee
President-Elect
Bratten Thomason
First Vice President
Lin Team
Second Vice President

Kim McKnight
Secretary
Vanessa McElwrath
Treasurer
Tere O'Connell
Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Paula Aaronson
Sabrina Brown
Lisa Byrd
Clay Cary
Danette Chimenti
Sam Davidson
John Donisi

Lauren Smith Ford
Ann S. Graham
Jerry Harris
Chris Hendel
Ken Johnson
Saundra Kirk
Richard Kooris

Tim League
Jennifer Marsh
Scott Mason
Dennis McDaniel
Andrea McWilliams
Stephen Webb

VOTING REPRESENTATIVES

Michael Holleran, UT School of Arch
John Rosato, Landmark Commission
Michelle Slatery, Inherit Austin
Mike Ward, Pioneer Farms

STAFF

Kate Singleton
Executive Director

July 20, 2015

Historic Landmarks Commission
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767
Via Email

Re: Ada and Luther Simond House

Dear Historic Landmark Commission members,

The Board of Directors of Preservation Austin is thrilled to have the opportunity to express our support for the landmark designation (H zoning) of the Ada and Luther Simond House. Not only is this home a unique example in Austin of 20th Century Norman-Tudor Revival style architecture, it was the home of Ada Deblanc Yerwood Simond for 50 years. Ada Simond was an important figure in public health at the state level, working as a field representative for the Texas Tuberculosis Association. After retiring she continued to have an impact on the Austin community as an activist, writer and educator on African-American history. She wrote series of children's books based on her own experiences as a child and a column for the Austin American Statesman titled "Looking Back", highlighting Austin's lesser known black residents. She was one of the founders of the George Washington Carver Museum and the W.H. Passon Historical Society and the recipient of numerous awards from local and state level entities. Her beloved husband Luther Simond was a well-respected elementary school principal, and her son Gerald Askey was an Academy Award winning music arranger, composer and producer.

The current owners of the home are seeking landmark designation to provide long-term protection of the home and to honor the memory of Ada and Luther Simond for future generations.

We respectfully request the Historic Landmark Commission recommend landmark designation recommend H zoning for the Ada and Luther Simond House.

Very sincerely,

Shelly Hemingson

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

August 5, 2015

Harold Groendyke and Catherine Lucchesi
2005 Hamilton Ave.
Austin, Texas 78702

RE: National Register eligibility, Ada LeBlanc Simond House, 2005 Hamilton Avenue, Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Groendyke and Ms. Lucchesi:

Thank you for submitting documentation regarding the historic and architectural significance of the Ada LeBlanc Simond House, on 2005 Hamilton Avenue in Austin. The house was built in 1939 for Dr. Charles Yerwood and his wife Ada Marie DeBlanc Simond. Dr. Yerwood died in 1940, and in 1949, Ada married Luther Charles Simonds. Ada lived in the house until her death in 1989, after which Luther occupied the house until his death in 2012. The house is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black for its association with Ada LeBlanc Simond and Criterion C in the area of Architecture, at the local level of significance.

Ada LeBlanc Simond was an acclaimed African-American teacher, writer, historian, and public health activist. After the death of Dr. Yerwood, she worked as a field representative for the Texas Tuberculosis Association and continued her studies in the field of public health. After her retirement in 1967, she worked for the Texas State Department of Health and from 1974 to 1977, as the bailiff for Travis County Judge Herman Jones. She remained very active as a volunteer in numerous community organizations, and beginning in 1977 became a well-known historical fiction author, whose "Let's Pretend" children's series told the story of an African-American family in Austin during the early 20th Century.

The Simond House is also architecturally significant, especially when examined within the context of its east Austin neighborhood. Although the identity of its designer is unknown, the house's scale, Tudor-inspired design, and brick facade set it apart from the surrounding Craftsman bungalows. These distinctions reflect the success of its original owner, Dr. Yerwood, who was one of a few African-American doctors in Austin. The house retains a high degree of integrity.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 512-463-6013 or gregs@thc.state.tx.us. Thank you for your interest in the preservation of Texas' rich heritage.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Smith
National Register Coordinator

