

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2015-0164

HLC DATE:

January 25, 2016

PC DATE:

APPLICANTS:

Andrew K. and Lindsey L. Heddleston Smith, owners
Emily Payne, Hardy, Heck & Moore, applicant and nominator

HISTORIC NAME: T.H. Shelby House

WATERSHED: Waller Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 503 W. 33rd Street

ZONING FROM: SF-3-NCCD-NP to SF-3-H-NCCD-NP

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from single family residence, neighborhood conservation, neighborhood plan (SF-3-NCCD-NP) combining district to single family residence – Historic Landmark – neighborhood conservation, neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-NCCD-NP) combining district zoning.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

Architecture and historical associations.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is listed as a Priority 2 for research in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

CITY COUNCIL DATE:

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:

North University

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Architecture:

This two-story house was designed in 1923 by prominent local architect Roy L. Thomas with reference to the Prairie School concept of architecture, popular in the first decades of the 20th century, but relatively rare in Austin. Frank Lloyd Wright was one of the founders and promoters of Prairie School architecture, which stressed a horizontal composition, bands of windows that accentuated the horizontal nature of the building, and flat or hipped roofs with deep eaves. The Prairie School shared many tenets with the Arts and Crafts Movement, which celebrated craftsmanship over mass-produced architectural elements, and was promoted as an indigenous American style of architecture, departing from the earlier reliance on European styles for American buildings.

Roy L. Thomas, a native Texan, was a prolific architect in Austin, and referred to many of the popular styles of his time in his designs. He designed this house fairly early in his career, and before he became one of the most prominent architects in the city. In this design, Thomas uses many of the architectural goals of the Prairie School, including the low hipped roof, the deep eaves, horizontal bands of windows on the second floor above the prominent front porch, and the small, fixed-sash multi-light windows at the corners of the front façade, which also evidence the Craftsman influences on the house, and on the ideals of the Prairie School in general. The house is a stucco-clad frame house on a concrete foundation. It has a symmetrical composition, with a central entry framed with multi-light beveled glass sidelights and transoms, and a deep front porch on stuccoed posts. Fenestration consists of single large windows with a horizontal muntin resembling a transom above on the ground floor, a band of 1:1 windows above the porch on the second floor, and fixed-sash corner windows with a geometric pattern, very much in keeping with the design concepts of the Prairie School. The corners of the house are embellished with vertical accent boards in a combination of Prairie School and Craftsman traditions.

A two-story side porch on the east side of the house is set back from the plane of the front façade, and has been enclosed with wood-frame windows over the years.

Historical Associations:

The house was built in 1923 for Thomas H. Shelby and his family. A major figure in education and educational reform, Shelby was born in Henderson County, Texas in 1881. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1907, and worked as superintendent of schools in Hubbard, Texas, and Tyler, Texas, and also as a professor of education at Sam Houston State Normal School (now Sam Houston State University), in Huntsville, Texas. In 1920, Shelby became the Director of Extension programs at the University of Texas. He took a short leave of absence to obtain his master's degree in education at the University of Chicago then returned to Austin 1921. He and his wife Dora purchased this house in 1923. In 1925, Shelby was appointed Dean of the Division of Extension, a position he held until he retired in 1951. He also taught educational administration at UT. While dean, Shelby expanded the Division of Education into a nationally-recognized program, providing myriad opportunities for higher learning for public school teachers in Texas. Shelby was also a strong proponent of adult education in Texas, and founded the Southwest Conference on Adult Education. He also served as a leader of several professional organizations for teachers and educators. In addition to his professional work in education, he and his brother were also the proprietors of the family dry goods store on E. 6th Street. He and his wife, Dora, lived here until 1957, when they moved to a house on Indian Trail. Shelby passed away in 1963.

The Shelbys sold the house to Spurgeon and Linnea Smith in 1958, but the Smiths did not move in until 1960. Spurgeon Smith was a mathematician and engineer/scientist who worked at the University of Texas Defense Research Laboratory. He was a co-founder of the Textran Corporation, which later merged with Texas Research Associates to form Tracor, one of the first technology companies in Austin. Linnea Smith was a musician, and taught at Southwest Texas State Teachers' College (now Texas State University) in San Marcos. She later taught music at the Texas School for the Blind, and then opened her own piano studio. She remained in the house after she and Spurgeon Smith divorced in 1970. She is credited with naming Research Boulevard in Austin, after the work of the Tracor Corporation, which was one of the first major industries on the street. In 1979, she sold the house to Paul and Judith Willcott.

Paul and Judith Willcott were the founders of Texas French Bread, and according to the company's website, the company was founded in the kitchen of this house. After their divorce, Judith Willcott remained in this house until 2013, when she sold it to the current owners.

PARCEL NO.: 02180319020000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot 42 and the West 10 feet of Lot 40, Block 5, Outlot 74, Division D, Aldridge Place.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$8,500 (owner-occupied), capped; city portion: \$2,500 (capped).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$750,000

PRESENT USE: Residence

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNERS:

Andrew K. and Lindsey L. Smith
503 W. 33rd Street
Austin, Texas 78705

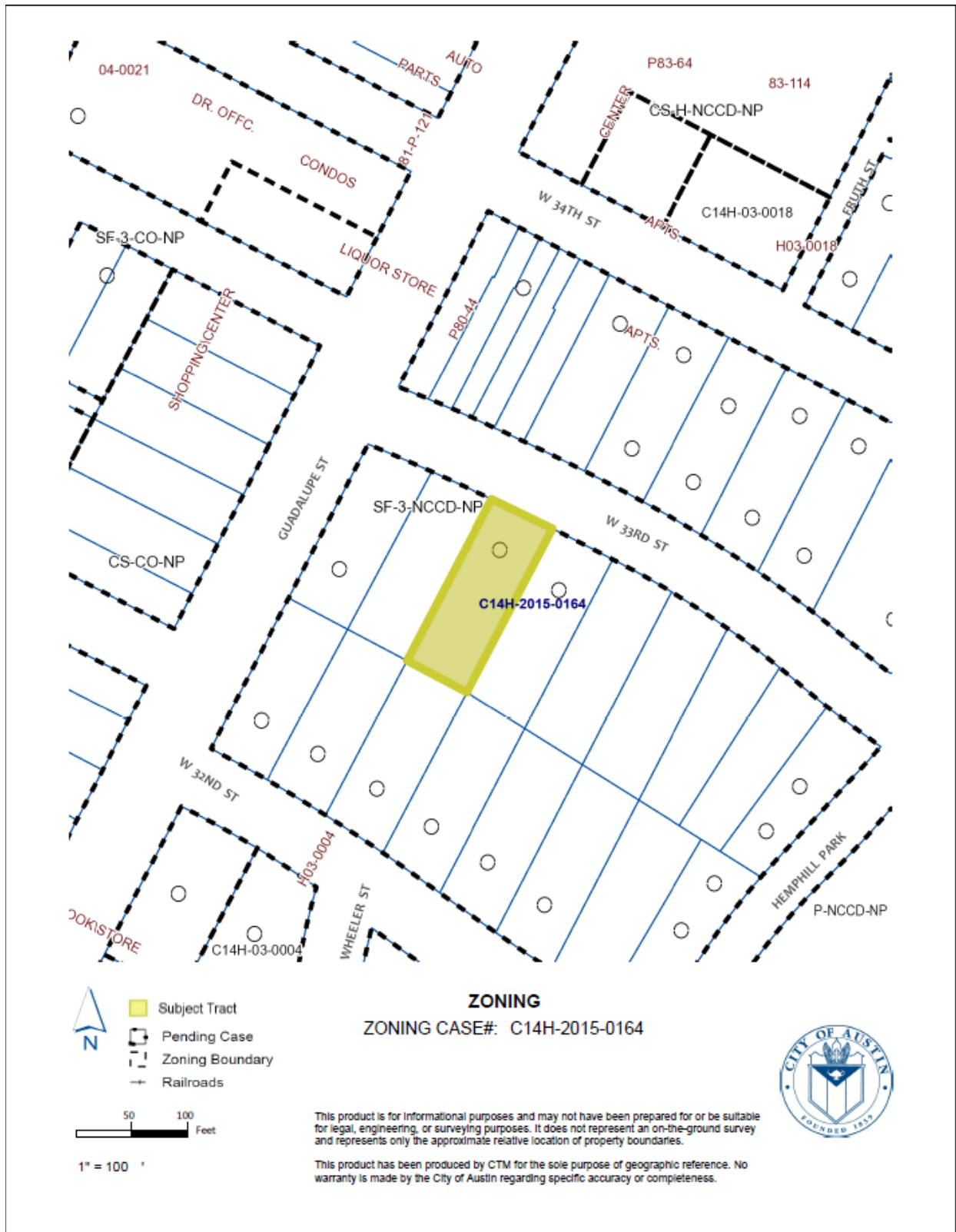
DATE BUILT: ca. 1923

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Side porch has been enclosed; screen porch on the rear has been enclosed.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): T.H. and Dora Shelby (1923)

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.

LOCATION MAP



Current Photos of 503 W. 33rd Street



12/4/2015
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12/4/2015
Print_DSC_0848.JPG



12/4/2015
Print_DSC_0849.JPG

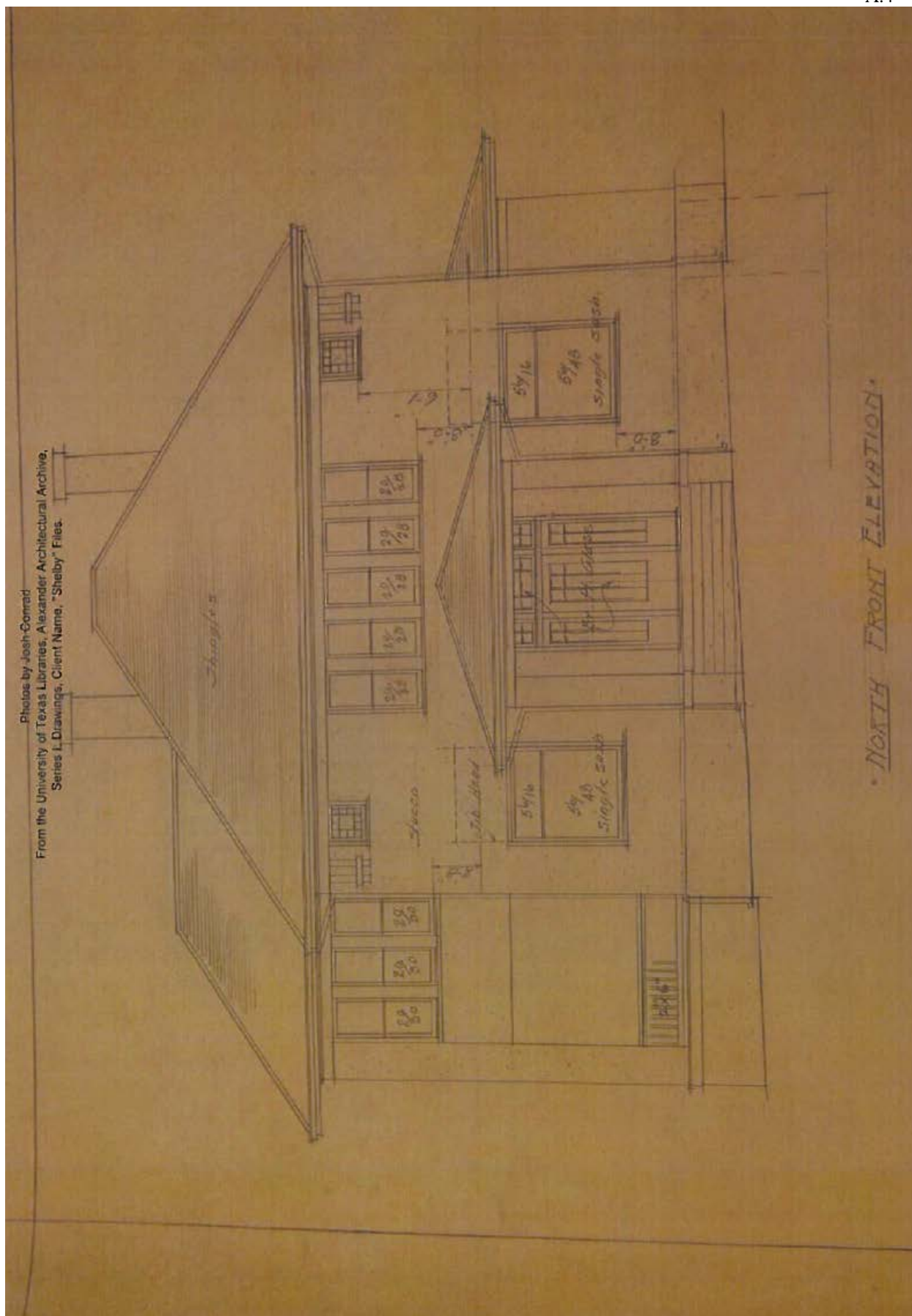


12/4/2015
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From the Austin History Center, Austin, Texas, AR- Roy L. Thomas Photographs and Drawings "AR.2009.036." (No caption.)



Photos by Josh Conrad
 From the University of Texas Libraries, Alexander Architectural Archive,
 Series L Drawings, Client Name, "Shelby" Files.



F. 1: Historical Documentation - Deed Chronology

Deed Research for (fill in address) 503 W. 33rd Street, Austin, TX

List Deeds chronologically, beginning with earliest transaction first and proceeding through present ownership. The first transaction listed should date at least back to when the original builder of any historic structures on the site first acquired the property (i.e., should pre-date the construction of any buildings/structures on the site). Please use the format delineated below.

For each transaction please include: name of Grantor/Grantee, date of transaction, legal description involved, price, and volume/page number of deed records. If there is a mechanic's lien please copy the entire document.

Transaction

E.B. Robinson to Thos. H. Shelby

December 31, 1921

Lot 42 & W 10 ft of Lot 40 Block 5 Aldridge Place

Vol. 334, pp. 180

\$1,800

T. H. Shelby and Dora E. Shelby to Spurgeon Eugene Smith and Linnea Bergquist Smith

October 7, 1958

Lot 42 & W 10 ft of Lot 40 Block 5 Aldridge Place

Vol. 1964, pp. 213

\$12,000

Linnea Bergquist Smith to Paul J. and Judith M. Willcott

October 22, 1980

Lot 42 & W 10 ft of Lot 40 Block 5 Aldridge Place

Vol. 7204, pp. 1269

\$95,200

Paul J. Willcott to Judith M. Willcott

March 30, 1984

Lot 42 & W 10 ft of Lot 40 Block 5 Aldridge Place

Vol. 8521, pp. 474

\$10

Mechanic's Lien between Judith M. Willcott (Owner) and Barrett-Clement (Contractor)¹

May 23, 1984

Lot 42 & W 10 ft of Lot 40 Block 5 Aldridge Place

Vol. 8620, pp. 829

F. 1: Historical Documentation - Deed Chronology (continued)

Mechanic's Lien between Judith M. Willcott (Owner) and Louis Clement (Contractor)²

December 3, 1991

Lot 42 & W 10 ft of Lot 40 Block 5 Aldridge Place

Vol. 11579, pp. 1105

Judith Murph Willcott to Andrew K. Smith and Lindsey L. Heddleston Smith

August 23, 2013

Lot 42 & W 10 ft of Lot 40 Block 5 Aldridge Place

Instrument No. 2013158776

F. 2: Historical Documentation - Occupancy History

Occupancy Research for (fill in address) 503 W. 33rd Street, Austin, TX

Using City Directories available at the Austin History Center or other information available, please provide a chronology of all occupants of the property from its construction to the present. For commercial property, please provide residential information on business owner as well.

Year	Occupant Name and Reference	Source
1924 ³ – 1958	T. H. Shelby and Dora Ethel Shelby	City Directory
1959	vacant	City Directory
1960 – 1970	Spurgeon E. Smith and Linnea Bergquist Smith	City Directory
1971 – 1979	Linnea Bergquist Smith	City Directory
1980 – 1984	Paul and Judith Willcott	City Directory
1984 – 2013	Judith Willcott	Current owner
2013 – present	Andrew K. Smith and Lindsey L. Heddleston Smith	Current owner

F. 3: Historical Documentation – Biographical Data

Refer to copies of historical documentation regarding Biographical Data included in *Appendix B* at the conclusion of the application packet for supplemental information.

Thomas Hall Shelby

Born: June 22, 1881 in Henderson County, TX
 Married: Dora Ethel Beasley Shelby on December 22, 1907
 Children: Thomas Hall Shelby Jr., Dorothy Shelby Casey
 Died: November 3, 1963 in Austin, TX
 Buried: Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Austin, TX

Dora Ethel Beasley Shelby

Born: August 9, 1878 in Arkansas
 Married: Thomas Hall Shelby on December 22, 1907
 Children: Thomas Hall Shelby Jr., Dorothy Shelby Casey
 Died: March 14, 1970 in San Antonio, TX
 Buried: Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Austin, TX

³ The 1923 City Directory was not available, and the Shelbys did not live there according to the 1922 City Directory.
 Adopted December 2012

City of Austin - Historic Preservation Office
Historic Zoning Application Packet

Spurgeon Eugene Smith

Born: July 1925 in San Marcos, TX

Married: Linnea Bergquist Smith in 1948 (Divorced in 1970)

Died: January 17, 2011 in Elgin, TX

Linnea Bergquist Smith

Born: 1924 in Pasadena, CA

Married: Spurgeon Eugene Smith in 1948 (Divorced in 1970)

Died: January 12, 2015 in Eugene, OR

F. 4: Historical Documentation – Significant Events

No known historical events are associated with this location.

F. 5: Historical Documentation – Color Digital Prints

Refer to prints of current photographs included in *Appendix C* at the conclusion of the application packet.

F. 6: Historical Documentation – Architect Information

Refer to copies of historical documentation regarding Biographical Data included in *Appendix D* at the conclusion of the application packet.

**F. 7: Historical Documentation – Historical
Photograph Reproductions**

Refer to *Appendix E* for historic photographs.

F. 8: Historical Documentation – Site Plan

Refer to *Appendix F* for a dimensioned site plan of the property.

F. 9: Historical Documentation – Historical Narrative

The T. H. Shelby House, at 503 W. 33rd Street, is an important house in Austin that gains its significance from its associations with important individuals in the city's history, as well as from its association with recognizable architectural trends and with prominent local architect, Roy L. Thomas.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

The 1923 T. H. Shelby House at 503 W. 33rd Street is located in the Austin subdivision of Aldridge Place. Lewis Hancock subdivided parts of outlots 73 and 74 of division "D" in Austin to form Aldridge Place, a residential neighborhood north of the University of Texas, in 1912. Deed restrictions, covenants, and conditions imposed on property owners of Aldridge Place created an exclusive and elite subdivision. Some of the deed restrictions and conditions included a minimum cost of construction of \$3,500 for one-story houses and \$5,000 for two-story houses; a requirement that all houses face inward and house no more than two families; and a restriction that no African Americans, except for those employed as "domestic servants," own, rent, or live in the neighborhood. A year after platting, construction of the first houses in Aldridge Place began and in January 1915, and Lewis Hancock sold lots 40 and 42 in Aldridge Place to William E. and Ella D. Hawkins for \$1,750. At the time of purchase, William Hawkins was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, and Ella Hawkins the State Chairman of the Legislative Committee of Texas Congress of Mothers and Parent Teachers' Association, as well as president of the Council of Presidents of the Austin Mothers' Clubs.⁴ The couple never built a residence on the property. Sometime after 1915, the Hawkins family sold the property to E. B. Robinson, an attorney in Austin, who in turn sold the undeveloped land to Thomas Shelby and his wife Dora Ethel Beasley in December 1921 for \$1,800.⁵

Thomas Shelby

Born in 1881 in Henderson County, Texas, Thomas Shelby would go on to spend his life devoted to education and education reform. Shelby entered the University of Texas as a student in 1902 and supported himself and paid for his education by working numerous jobs, including teaching at a rural school in Hillsboro from 1904 through 1905 after having earned his teaching certificate under Dr. W. S. Sutton. After graduating in 1907, Shelby held various education positions including Superintendent of Schools in Hubbard, Texas; Professor of Education at Sam Houston Normal School (now Sam Houston State University) in Huntsville, Texas; and Superintendent of Schools in Tyler, Texas. Shelby also served as Chief Clerk of the State Department of Education between 1910 and 1913. In 1920, Shelby was awarded the job of Director of Extension at the University of Texas. Shortly thereafter, Shelby took a leave of absence, earning his M.A. at the University of Chicago before returning as Director of Extension in 1921. It was during this period, when the Shelybs returned to Austin, that they purchased the lot in Aldridge Place and constructed the house they would live in for the next 36 years.

In 1925, during his residence in the house, Shelby was appointed Dean of the Division of Extension, a position he held until he retired in 1951 before becoming Dean Emeritus. In addition to his role as Dean, Shelby also served as professor of Educational Administration at the University of Texas.⁶ During his tenure as Dean, Shelby developed the Division of Extension into a nationally recognized and renowned program. His leadership led to the improvement of the public school system in the state by furthering the education of thousands of public school teachers in Texas, conducting school surveys to ensure quality, and steering the University Interscholastic League by serving as Chairman of its State Executive Committee. Shelby believed in "the free development of the young in preparing them for citizenship and their future responsibilities."⁷ Shelby was also a promoter of adult education and founded the Southwest Conference on Adult Education, an organization that contributed to the professional development of

⁴ William E. Hawkins, 1863–1937 (biography file). Austin History Center.

⁵ Travis County Clerk Records. Vol. 334, pp. 180, December 31, 1921.

⁶ Thomas Hall Shelby (biography file). Austin History Center.

⁷ University of Texas. In Memoriam, Thomas Hall Shelby.

adults. During his lifetime, Shelby served as President of the Texas State Teachers Association (1919) and President of the National University Extension Association (1929), and he received a Rockefeller Foundation Traveling Scholarship for advanced study of radio in education in England and Scotland (1938–1939).⁸ In addition to his educational jobs, the Austin City Directories from the 1920s show that the Thomas Shelby who lived at 503 W. 33rd Street owned the Shelby Dry Goods Company, located at 221–223 E. 6th Street, along with his brother Lemuel E. Shelby. By 1930, Thomas Shelby was listed as Dean of Division of Extension and professor at the University of Texas, and Lemuel was listed as sole proprietor of the dry goods store.

Thomas Shelby and his wife Dora lived at 503 W. 33rd Street until 1957, six years after his retirement from the University of Texas. The couple then moved to 2316 Indian Trail in Austin, where, in 1963, Shelby passed away.

Spurgeon and Linnea Smith

In 1958, the Shelbys sold the house to Spurgeon and Linnea Smith for \$12,000, but according to City Directories, the couple did not move into the house until 1960. Smith, a mathematician, left his job at the University of Texas Defense Research Laboratory in 1956 and, together with Obie Baltzer and Marcel Gres, founded Textran Corporation, an engineering firm focused on countermeasures and low frequency technology for defense electronics, out of a rental house on Woodrow Avenue. In 1962, Textran merged with Austin-based Texas Research Associates to form Tracor, Inc., where Smith served as Principal Scientist until his retirement.⁹ Tracor, Inc. is one of Austin's earliest technology companies and helped shape the city into an important high-tech research and manufacturing center. According to architectural drawings by Robert S. Harris, the Smiths remodeled the bathroom and kitchen in 1965. The couple divorced in 1970, and Linnea remained at the house. Linnea, a musician, had been a music professor at Southwest Texas State Teachers' College in San Marcos prior to her marriage. In Austin, she taught at the Texas School for the Blind before opening her own private piano studio. According to her obituary, Linnea is credited with naming Research Boulevard. At the time she named it, it was an unnamed road on which Tracor, Inc. was located. The landlord asked for ideas for a street name and Linnea suggested "Research Boulevard," thinking it complimented "Exposition Boulevard." Linnea lived in the house until 1979 and sold it in 1980 to Paul and Judith Willcott.

Paul and Judith Willcott

According to the Texas French Bread website, the company was founded in the kitchen of 503 W. 33rd Street in 1981 by Paul and Judith Willcott. After an inspection by the health inspector though, the bakery moved out of the house and into a rented commercial space on the corner of 34th and Guadalupe streets. The couple divorced and Judith retained the house in 1984. Mechanic's liens were taken out in 1984 and 1991 for "certain improvements" and the "remodeling of residence." Architectural drawings from 1991 show a reconfiguration of the first floor that created a dining room out of the original living room. The drawings also show a reconfiguration of the second floor that included the addition of a second bathroom. Willcott lived at 503 W. 33rd Street until 2013 before selling the house to its current owners, Andrew Smith and Lindsey Heddleston Smith.

ARCHITECTURE

In addition to the significance associated with the owners of the house on 503 W. 33rd Street, the house is significant for its architecture and association with architect Roy L. Thomas. According to City Directories, when Shelby and his wife purchased the lot in Aldridge Place in 1921, the subdivision was inhabited by lawyers, merchants, politicians, and other educators in large, two-story houses. In 1922, the couple hired Austin-based architect Roy L. Thomas to design a house that would be compatible with the other houses in Aldridge Place for their family, which by then included two children, Thomas, Jr. and Dorothy.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Austin American Statesman. Spurgeon Eugene Smith obituary. January 20, 2011. Adopted December 2012

Roy L. Thomas was born in 1886 in San Marcos, and attended Southwestern University in Georgetown in 1905 before enrolling in the School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin in 1906. Before graduating, Thomas left college and spent the year in 1908 as a construction superintendent in San Marcos, and in 1909 worked as a draftsman in San Benito, Texas, for the Austin-based architectural firm of Endress and Walsh. There he assisted with the design for the San Benito Land and Water Company's office building, as well as the Sam Robertson House, the Haywood Bank, and a school. Thomas returned to Austin and in 1911, and worked for a short period of time with the Page Brothers before opening his own architectural practice in the Scarbrough Building.¹⁰ During World War I, Thomas again left Austin and worked as an architectural draftsman for the Department of Public Works in the Key West Naval Yards. After the war, Thomas returned to Austin and began working with the Stacy Realty Company designing houses for the development of Travis Heights.¹¹ By 1922, according to the City Directory, Thomas was practicing out of the Littlefield Building.¹² Sometime during the 1920s, Thomas joined the firm of Sanguinet, Staats, and Hedrick, as an associate architect, working on projects including the Stephen F. Austin Hotel, Swedish Evangelical Free Church, and Kirby Hall. In 1933, Thomas once again established his own practice, based out of his home at 2812 Hemphill Park in Aldridge Place. In 1944, Thomas partnered with his son William, and the two worked together through the 1950s. During his career, Roy L. Thomas employed a number of young draftsmen who would go on to design their own notable buildings, including Louis Southerland and Leonard Lundgren.¹³ Thomas continued working into the 1960s and died in 1968.¹⁴

Thomas was a prolific architect, designing hundreds of buildings, including houses, churches, and schools, in Austin and Central Texas. Thomas designed houses in a variety of styles, including Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Mission Style, Spanish Colonial Revival, Prairie School, Eclectic, and Asian-influenced styles, among others. One of his most notable designs is the Bohn House at 1301 W. 29th Street in Austin, constructed in 1938 in the Moderne Style. Another noteworthy house, the M. R. Kennedy house in Taylor designed by Thomas in 1917, appears in McAlester's *A Field Guide To American Houses* as an example of a Neoclassic house. In Austin, there are at least five buildings that Roy L. Thomas designed, or help designed, that are designated local historic landmarks, including his own house at 1510 San Antonio Street,¹⁵ the Bohn House, the Halm-Mallory House at 1501 Wooldridge Drive, the Gambrell House at 1410 Withen Avenue, the Stephen F. Austin Hotel on Congress Avenue, and the Spanish Eclectic Revival Style Walter Bacon and Nettie Avery Black House, also in Aldridge Place at 401 W. 32nd Street. (Refer to *Appendix D*, which includes research materials related to Roy L. Thomas.)

The Shelys hired Thomas early in his career, before he joined Sanguinet, Staats, and Hedrick. The T. H. Shelby house is one of the earlier houses Thomas designed in Austin.¹⁶ For the Shelys, Thomas designed a two-story Prairie School Style-influenced house. Located in the western portion of Aldridge Place, the house is set back from 33rd Street on a slightly sloping lot with access provided via a concrete walkway from the sidewalk and a concrete driveway west of the house. Mature trees, planted around the time of construction, line the property on the east, west, and south sides. Several large shade trees are located in the front yard of the house. Shrubs and other plantings can be found along the perimeter of the house. A driveway leads to the garage behind the house, built in the southwest corner of the property.

The two-story frame house sits atop a concrete foundation and measures 29ft-6in by 32ft-6in, exclusive of original porches. The house is clad in stucco and topped by a hipped asphalt shingle-covered roof

¹⁰ Sue H. Kothmann. "Roy L. Thomas, Architect," AF Biography, Roy L. Thomas file, Austin History Center.

¹¹ Christopher Long, "THOMAS, ROY LEONIDAS," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fth51>), accessed December 01, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

¹² 1922 Austin City Directory.

¹³ Kothmann.

¹⁴ Roy L. Thomas Papers Biographical Sketch, from the Alexander Architectural Archives website.

¹⁵ This house was moved to this location from its original location at 2812 Hemphill Park.

¹⁶ Based on review of the Roy L. Thomas Papers at the Alexander Architectural Archives.

Adopted December 2012

with wide eaves and two interior concrete chimneys – one on the side east façade and one on the side west façade. The roof originally had wood shingles. The stucco exterior wall surfaces of the house currently are painted grey, and original specifications by Thomas indicate only that paint colors will be selected by the owner. Wood trim elements on the house are currently painted white. The main front façade is symmetrically composed, with three bays across. A one-story porch projects from the central bay, with a low-sloped hipped roof supported by square piers. The house's main entrance is centrally located beneath the porch, with a wood door with beveled glass set in a grid of wood muntins that create a Prairie School-Style geometric pattern. The sidelights and transom that surround the door feature a similar geometric pattern of muntins and beveled glass. On the ground floor, large one-over-one wood-sash windows flank the porch. On the upper floor, a row of five one-over-one wood-sash windows sits above the front porch. Two smaller, square, fixed windows sit near the upper corners of the front façade, below the soffit. These windows also feature a geometric grid of muntins holding small square panes of glass in a Prairie School-Style pattern. Adjacent to these small upper windows, half-timbering details embellish the upper corners of the front façade, and also are repeated on the side and rear façades. The current configuration of the main north façade remains identical to Thomas' original drawings for the house.

The symmetry of the main front façade is counterbalanced by a two-story side porch that projects from the east side façade, set back behind the plane of the main front façade. A hipped roof with wide eaves covers this two-story porch. Originally, the lower story of this porch was open, while the upper story was screened for use as a sleeping porch. Today, the porch is enclosed with wood-frame windows. Neither historic drawings nor historic photographs document the chronology of the porch enclosure, but it appears that the porch was enclosed bit by bit over time. In each series of alterations, the windows were installed in a manner that has not damaged the original wall materials of the house, so that the enclosure is easily reversible.

Off the west side façade, a small, one-story projecting wing sits below a hipped wood-shingled roof and contains a side entrance into the house. The opening for this side entrance appears to have been altered from the original plans. According to Thomas' plans, the door into the house originally was on the west façade of the projecting wing and opened into a hallway off of a bathroom. Today, the door is on the south side of the enclosed entrance and accessed with concrete steps. By 1965, architectural drawings reflected this current configuration.¹⁷

To the rear, a one-story screened kitchen porch with a hipped wood-shingled roof originally projected from the south façade. As shown by 1965 architectural drawings, the screened kitchen is now enclosed. This enclosure removed a secondary side west entrance. Also on the rear south façade, a window off what was the breakfast room has been replaced with wood-frame French doors. A series of four double-hung one-over-one wood-frame windows sit east of the French doors. Original drawings show only two windows in this location. Currently, two rows of three double-hung one-over one wood-frame windows sit below the soffit. Original drawings show the three western windows, but only two windows on the eastern half of upper rear façade. The 1965 drawings also show this window configuration.

Original to the property is the garage located to the rear southwest of the house. The garage is a one-story wood-frame building clad in board-and-batten and topped with a compositional shingle-clad hipped roof. The original drawing shows a double-door on the north façade and two windows on the both the side east and west façades and one window on the rear south façade. The double-doors have been replaced on the north façade. The windows on the side façades have also been replaced, but remain in the same location. The window on the south façade has been removed. The garage also has a brick chimney that does not appear on Thomas' original drawings for the garage.

¹⁷ See *Appendix D* for the 1965 architectural drawings.
Adopted December 2012

SUMMARY

The Shelby House is an excellent example of a Prairie School Style-influenced house in Austin. These influences can be found in the house's overhanging eaves, geometric detailing, and fenestration patterns. Prairie School houses are uncommon in Austin, and only eight other Prairie School houses are known to be listed local Austin landmarks. Additionally, the house retains a high degree of integrity. The alterations to the house are minimal and are found primarily on the house's side and rear façades. These alterations do not impact the house's Prairie School Style-influenced character-defining features.

The T. H. Shelby House meets the Austin City Historic Landmark Criteria for listing as a Historic Landmark.

The property is over 50 years old and retains a high degree of integrity. The property meets the Architecture criteria for listing as an excellent example of a Prairie School Style-influenced house and as a design by prominent local architect, Roy L. Thomas. The property also meets the Historical Associations criteria for listing for its association with Thomas H. Shelby, former educator and Dean of the Division of Extension at the University of Texas, and who worked to better the Texas public education and adult education systems.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alexander Architectural Archives

Roy L. Thomas: An Inventory of his Records, Drawings, and Photographs, 1910-1966.
Series E: Specifications – box 81, folder 25 – Shelby, T.H.; Residence, Austin
(October-November 1922).

Roy L. Thomas: An Inventory of his Records, Drawings, and Photographs, 1910-1966.
Series F: Floor Plans – box 89, folder 43 – Shelby, T.H.; Residence, Austin.

Roy L. Thomas: An Inventory of his Records, Drawings, and Photographs, 1910-1966.
Series I: Drawings – Mr. and Mrs. T.H. Shelby Residence.

Austin History Center

Austin City Directories – 1922 - 1990

AF – Biography file, Hawkins, William E.

AF – Biography file, Shelby, Thomas Hall.

AF – Biography file, Thomas, Roy L.

AF - Subdivisions S6010, Aldridge Place

AR.2009.036 – Roy L. Thomas Photographs and Drawings.

Kothmann, Sue H. "Roy L. Thomas, Architect." Unpublished. AF – Biography file, Thomas, Roy L., Austin History Center, 1985.

Travis County Clerk

Deed Records

Plat Records

Online Resources

Austin American Statesman. Spurgeon Eugene Smith Obituary.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?pid=147940501>, accessed December 7, 2015.

Austin American Statesman. Linnea Bergquist Smith Obituary.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?pid=174319219>, accessed December 7, 2015.

Find A Grave. Thomas Hall Shelby. [http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=shelby&GSfn=thomas&GSmn=hall&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n)

[bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=shelby&GSfn=thomas&GSmn=hall&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n&GRid=26218333&df=all&](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=shelby&GSfn=thomas&GSmn=hall&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n&GRid=26218333&df=all&), accessed December 7, 2015.

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IN MEMORIAMTHOMAS HALL SHELBY

Thomas Hall Shelby was born on June 22, 1881, in Henderson County, Texas, and died suddenly at his residence in Austin, Sunday, November 3, 1963, at the age of 82.

The traditions of Dean Shelby's family are deeply rooted in America and in the Old South. His forebears emigrated from Wales to the American Colony of Maryland in 1737, moving soon thereafter to North Carolina. The third generation of his family fought in the American Revolution, one member being a co-commander at the Battle of King's Mountain. A part of the family moved west to Alabama and after the War between the States came to Tyler, Texas, in 1869.

In 1891, when Tom Shelby was ten years old, his family moved to a half section of land which his father had purchased near the little town of Tolbert in Wilbarger County. Here the family endured the extreme hardships of the great drought and depression of 1892-1895. The experiences of this period, and the years immediately following, developed in young Tom Shelby a self-reliance and conservatism which characterized his whole life. He entered a one-teacher rural school and in due time graduated from Vernon High School.

In the fall of 1902 he entered The University of Texas where he worked his way by performing a variety of jobs, including milking cows. Having completely run out of funds, he withdrew from the University and taught in a rural school during 1904-1905. In order to secure a teaching certificate, he attended the summer session in 1904 and took a course under Dr. W. S. Sutton, who so influenced him that he made education his choice as a life career. He graduated from The University of Texas with an A.B. degree in 1907.

A chronology of his career in the field of public education shows the constant growth of his professional status and the scope of his contributions in this field. From his initial start as a rural school teacher, he became Superintendent of Schools, Hubbard, Texas, from 1907-1910; from 1910-1913 he served as Chief Clerk, State Department of Education; from 1913-1916 he served as Professor of Education, Sam Houston Normal School; and from 1916-1920 he served as Superintendent of Schools, Tyler. In 1920 he joined the staff of The University of Texas as Director of Extension, taking leave to secure the M.A. degree from The University of Chicago. In 1921 he returned to the University as Director of Extension, and in 1925 he was appointed Dean, Division of Extension, and served continuously in this position until 1951 when he entered a Modified Service status as Dean Emeritus. In 1927 he was appointed Professor of Educational Administration in the College of Education, a position which he also held until 1951.

During his thirty years of leadership of the Division of Extension, Dean Shelby developed a broad program which gained national recognition among the great universities of the nation. At a time of urgent need for further education of Texas public school teachers, he directed a program which resulted in thousands of teachers securing bachelor's and master's degrees, conducted school surveys, and provided professional leadership which contributed greatly to the improvement of the entire public school system of the state. As Dean of the Division of Extension he served as Chairman of the State Executive Committee of the University Interscholastic League and, in this capacity, became one of the chief architects, builders, and defenders of the League. The Interscholastic League continued to be the focus of his many interests as an educator. He was a great builder of youth, striving for the free development of the young in preparing them for citizenship and their future responsibilities.

Dean Shelby was devoted to the concept of education as a lifelong process and was a powerful leader for adult education in the state and nation. He was the founder of the Southwest Conference on Adult Education which for twenty-five years has contributed to the professional development of this field in the southwest. Dean Shelby's leadership in the public schools of Texas and in universities resulted in his serving as President of the Texas State Teachers Association in 1919 and as President of the National University Extension Association in 1929.

As a nationally recognized leader in university adult education, he received in 1938-1939 a Rockefeller Foundation Traveling Scholarship for advanced study of radio in education in England and Scotland. He assumed a leadership role in the establishment of radio at The University of Texas.

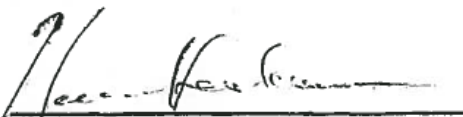
Perhaps no other member of the faculty of The University of Texas has been more widely known than Dean Shelby. Through articles in professional educational journals, published public school surveys, hundreds of addresses delivered before varied educational groups, his leadership in the affairs of the University Interscholastic League, and through his direction of extension classes and other programs as Dean of the Division of Extension, he was known and respected everywhere. In addition to leadership in his profession, he was a dedicated and distinguished churchman, a nationally recognized leader in the Boy Scouts of America, a Past District Governor of Rotary International, a long-time member of the Town and Gown Club of Austin, an active member of the Board of the University Young Men's Christian Association, and prominent in the civic and cultural affairs of his city.

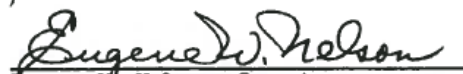
Aside from his distinguished leadership roles, Tom Shelby was a good man and a good companion. Raised in farm and ranch country, he loved nature and the outdoors. For thirty years he camped and hunted on the same deer lease with close companions, some of whom are members of this faculty. He was beloved and respected by all who knew him, from the humble to the great.

The lives of all who knew Dean Shelby were greatly enriched by this association, and the lives of children not yet born will be better because of the constructive and lasting contribution he made to the development of public education in Texas. His life was primarily dedicated to awakening in others, both young and old, a desire to realize their full potential.

The faculty extends condolences to Dean Shelby's wife, Mrs. Dora Beasley Shelby; his two children, Thomas Hall Shelby, Jr., of Tyler and Mrs. Dorothy Shelby Casey of San Antonio; and to the six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren of the family.




Norman Hackerman
Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs


Eugene W. Nelson, Secretary
The General Faculty

From "A History of Central and Western Texas, Vol. II," by Captain B. B. Paddock, 1911

raising and where he yet resides. He was born near Smith, Fairbairn, in 1849, a son of James M. and Mrs. Henderson Shelby, who settled at the old stockade in Tyler, Texas, in 1870, and who lie buried at Morrison's Chapel near Larue. They were North Carolinians by birth. John M. Shelby married Miss Josephine Jackson, who died in Henderson county, Texas, in 1887, after becoming the mother of the following children: L. Evart, a merchant of Austin; Thomas H., the Hubbard educator; Era, wife of J. E. Swin, of Vernon, Texas. For his second wife Mr. Shelby married Sarah Luc Bristow, and their two children are Lulu May and Minnie Leora.

Thomas H. Shelby achieved his first educational prominence by graduating from the high school at Vernon in 1901, and he spent the following year as a teacher in a country school near Altus, Oklahoma. He then enrolled as a student in the academic department of the Texas State University, where he spent the years of 1904-5, and then resuming his professional labors he was chosen principal of the Franklin school in Hillsboro and served one year there. He then returned to the University and graduated with his class of 1907, with the degree of A.B., and was a student assistant in the department of education during his senior year. He was a useful member of the Rusk Literary Society of the school, and was chosen vice president of the University Y. M. C. A.

On the 22d of December, 1907, Mr. Shelby married Miss Dora Ethel Beasley, from Chillicothe, Texas, where she was a teacher in the public

of this school until the educational system is one of which every citizen of the locality has reason to be proud. Mr. Shelby entered upon the duties of his present position after a splendid educational training, succeeding M. S. Gardner, and he has continued therein for three years. He supervises the work of nine teachers in a school that is affiliated with the University of Texas through the subjects of English, history, mathematics, Latin, physics, civics, American history, physical geography and physiology, the last five subjects having been added during the past three years and under Mr. Shelby's administration, making a total of fourteen units, the standard of full affiliation. The Hubbard school has graduated thirty-six pupils during the past three years, and has complete identification with the University of Texas, the A. & M. College, Baylor University, Southwestern University, Trinity University, Polytechnic College and Texas Christian University.

Mr. Shelby is a member of the State Teachers' Association, and was on the program of the principals and superintendents' division of the meeting in Dallas in 1909. His work as an educator has gained a currency over Texas which has brought him favorable notice from among the leading educators of the state. During the early part of 1910 he was offered the position of chief clerk of the State Department of Education by State Superintendent F. M. Bralley, a position equal in importance to the assistant superintendency of public education, and accepting he will enter upon the duties of the office with the close of the school work in June, 1910.

AF - BIOGRAPHY - Snelby, Thomas Hall

Born: Henderson Co. Tex. June 22, 1881
 Parents: John McKitt and Josephine (Jackson)
 Married: Ethel Seasley, Dec. 22, 1907; children--Thomas Hall, Dorothy Mae

AB U of T. 1907

AM U of Chicago, 1921

Teacher rural school; elementary principal, Hillsboro, Tex. 1904-5

Supt. schools, Hubbard, Tex. 1907-10

First asst. state supt. of public instruction for Tex. 1910-3

Prof. edn. Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, 1913-6

Supt. city schools, Tyler, Tex. 1916-20

Dir. extension, U of T, 1920-4

Prof. ednl. adminstrn. and dean of ext. U of T. since 1925.

Mem. White House Conference, 1933

Mem. at large, Nat. Council of BSA. since 1930. Pres. Capitol Area Council, BSA, Austin
~~Dep. of BSA. Dep. of BSA~~

Mem. NEA. Dept. of Supts.

Tex. State Teachers Assn. (pres. 1919)(exec. comm. since 1935)

Phi Delta Kappa

Democrat

Methodist

Mason

Clubs: University (Austin) Town and Gown; Scholia

author of School Survey Reports pubd. U of T bullet. and contrb. to ednl. jous.

Lecturer on edn.

Home: 503 West 33rd St. Austin

Taken from: Who's Who in America, 1940-1.

From the "Thomas Hall Shelby Biography File" at the Austin History Center

Whole State Campus To Dean T. H. Shelby

"The world is my parish," John Wesley, founder of Methodism, declared.

"The State of Texas Is Our Campus," declares the University of Texas Division of Extension, and it is no accident that a good Methodist coined the slogan.

T. H. Shelby, Extension Division dean emeritus, retired June 1, but his concept of the University's obligation of statewide service is being carried on by Dean James R. D. Eddy, Associate Dean Morris A. Hiett and the five extension bureaus: Public School Service (Interscholastic League), Extension Teaching and Field Service, Industrial and Business Training, Package Loan Library and Visual Instruction Bureau.

Dean Shelby had been on modified service since 1951, spending part-time at work that claimed his full efforts for more than 30 years. Under his leadership, the Division had its greatest period of expansion. The underlying philosophy that guided its growth has been expressed in some of Dean Shelby's annual reports:

"As their greatest obligation to civilization, universities must seek the truth, uphold it and pass it on to as many as possible so that it may live and reproduce its own kind."

"The extension service aims to carry instructional opportunities to citizens of the state qualified to profit by them and to render serv-

ice to schools, communities and individuals, keeping in mind that culture, happiness, citizenship, efficiency and responsibility are ultimate goals. The University, on a count of its research material, its library resources and its personnel, is in position to render this type of service at a minimum cost and with a maximum of efficiency."

"We conceive education as a lifelong process, and through these activities we endeavor to guarantee that the process of growth and adjustment will continue under the most favorable conditions."

The organization and the techniques of yesterday will not serve the needs of today in the field of education any more than they do in the fields of industry and commerce. The world moves and with it education must move or become antiquated and inefficient. The leadership in this constant forward movement belongs in large measure to the University."

His devotion to the University and education has not excluded other activities. Dean Shelby has been active in the work of the Methodist Church, Boy Scouts of America and Rotary Club. In recent years, he has spoken frequently in support of the United Nations. He is also a sportsman, enjoying deer hunting, golf and fishing.

Dean Shelby was born in Henderson County and grew up in

Wilbarger County. He is a graduate of Vernon High School and the University of Texas and has a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago. He taught elementary principal at Hillsboro, served as superintendent at Hubbard (Hill County) and Tyler. He taught at Sam Houston State College, Huntsville, and served as assistant state superintendent of public instruction.

He has taught educational administration at the University, in addition to his duties at the Extension Division.

School studies for the improvement of local schools and adult education have been his principal interests, and in following these interests he has become known and respected through the state. He has conducted school surveys at Laredo, San Antonio, Galveston, Goose Creek, Waco, El Campo, Palacios, Amarillo and Henderson.

He is founder of the Southwest Regional Conference on Adult Education, former president of the Texas State Teachers Association and National University Extension Association, and is active in several professional organizations of educators. His honors include a Rockefeller Foundation travelling fellowship for studies of radio education and the Silver Antelope Award for 25 years of service to the Boy Scouts. He has served as Rotary International district governor and University Methodist Church board of stewards chairman. He is a 32nd degree Mason.

Dean and Mrs. Shelby, the former Dora Ethel Beasley of Chillicothe, have a son, a daughter and six grandchildren.



THOMAS HALL SHELBY
"TOM"

Classification
Major: Education
Minor: Divisions of Extension

Dean, Division of Extension
The University of Texas
Extension Building
University Station
Telephone 2-3408

Rotary Ann: Dora Ethel

Children:
Thomas Hall, Jr.
1402 West 2nd St.
Tyler, Texas
Dorothy Mae (Shelby) Casey
110 Alter Street
San Antonio, Texas

Home:
503 West 33rd St.
Telephone 3987

Hobby:
Hunting and Golfing

Entered Club: March 1, 1922
(Resigned May 27, 1930)

Spurgeon Eugene Smith

Spurgeon Eugene Smith Spurgeon Eugene Smith, of Elgin, 85, a longtime resident of Central Texas and one of the founders of Tracor, died on Monday January 17, 2011. Gene was born in San Marcos, Texas on July 1925, and joined the **U.S. Navy** at the age of seventeen. After attending Midshipman's School in New York City, he was sent to Columbia, Bowdoin College and MIT. As the war ended, he finished his training and served for a year as an electronics officer on the USS Harlan R. Dickson (DD708). After the war and earning a bachelor's degree at Southwest Texas State Teacher's College, Gene attended graduate school at U.T. and studied mathematics and topology with R.L. Moore. He later worked at the U.T. Defense Research Laboratory, where he met Marcel Gres and Obie Baltzer, whom he much admired. Later, the three men each put up \$1,000.00 and started their own company called Textran in a rental house on Woodrow Ave. "The people we'd been dealing with in the Air Force had confidence in us to be able to devise and invent what they wanted," said Smith in a recent interview. "They give us a contract, and off we went." Textran later merged with Texas Research Associates to become Tracor. Smith was given the title of Principal Scientist and worked until the end of his career on various projects which called upon his problem-solving skills in statistics, engineering and mathematics. Smith's interests were many and varied, and included woodworking, photography, aviation, animal husbandry, swimming, carpentry, grass farming, computer programming, sailing, choral singing, etymology, and poetry. His love for poetry may have begun in his childhood, when Odgen Nash spent the night at the Smith's home in San Marcos. An avid outdoorsman, he greatly enjoyed fishing at Lake Travis and hunting in Cuero. And for many years, he and his wife Fran, kept a boat in Rockport, where they fished for flounder, sheepshead, and trout off the coast. Gene Smith is survived by his wife of thirty years, Fran; his son, Thomas; granddaughter, Helena of Minneapolis; his daughter, Marian and son-in-law, Carl Woideck of Eugene, Oregon; and his first wife, Linnea Bergquist Smith of Eugene Oregon. The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 21st at the Elgin Funeral Home. A graveside service will be held at Youngs Prairie Cemetery (off FM 1704 near Elgin) at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 22nd with the Reverend, Lisa Hines officiating. The family cordially invites everyone to attend an informal gathering at the 3-H Cattle Co. Steakhouse (Alamo and Hwy 290) in Elgin. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Gene Smith's memory to the Charles S. Smith Memorial Endowment at Texas State University. Arrangements and care are entrusted to the staff and family of:

Elgin
Funeral Home
704 N. 4th St. Elgin, TX 78741

Published in the Austin American-Statesman, January 20, 2011

LINNEA BERGQUIST SMITH

1924 - 2015 ▾ Obituary ▸ Condolences



SMITH, Linnea Bergquist

A funeral has been set for 1:00 pm on March 28 at All Saints' Episcopal Church for Linnea Bergquist Smith, 90, who died peacefully on January 12, 2015, in Eugene, Oregon, after a heart attack. The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00 on March 27th in the solarium at the Westminster Retirement Community (4100 Jackson Avenue).

Linnea was born to Carl and Elva Bergquist in 1924 in Pasadena. She arrived in Georgetown with her family in 1927 in a Model T Ford after her father had been called as pastor of the Swedish Methodist Church (now St. John's). Linnea's parsonage childhood left her with a strong sense of duty, an open heart, and - thanks to her father's behind-the-scenes stand for racial equality in Williamson County - a lifelong devotion to progressive politics. And Linnea's love for music showed itself early: starting at age eight she played the piano for her father's evening prayer services and a few years later assisted Robert McCutcheon, editor of the New Methodist Hymnal, as accompanist at Pastors' School. The hymnal he inscribed to her remained her most valued material possession throughout her life.

With degrees from Southwestern (BA in English '44 and BFA in Music '45), Linnea joined the music faculty of SW Texas State Teachers' College in San Marcos. In 1948 she married Gene Smith (they were amicably divorced in 1970), and then taught at the Texas School for the Blind until the birth of their first child, Thomas. Later, after graduate studies with Dalies Franz and Verna Harder at the [University of Texas](#), she opened a private piano studio in Austin that thrived for over four decades.

Outside the studio, she contributed to Austin's musical life as an active member of the Wednesday Morning Music Club and the Austin Music Teachers' Association, and as a chamber musician and collaborative pianist. A typical week found her playing with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, accompanying and coaching young soloists from University Junior High, and singing in the All Saints' choir (which she did for thirty years) under the direction of Josémaría Gonzáles, whom she much admired. Linnea also drove for Meals on Wheels, read avidly, attended live performances of all sorts, and derived much joy from her friends, who were hilarious, kind, and smart, and whose company she deeply cherished.

In family circles, Linnea was celebrated not only for her music making (including merry renditions of the "Healthy, Happy Georgetown" song) and ability to pronounce Swedish tongue twisters, but also for her devotion to Swedish-American traditions, her love for the everyday in life, and her phenomenal memory (she once astonished a brand new acquaintance at Luby's by recalling the name of the sorority the lady had joined thirty years earlier at UT - Linnea had read it in the Statesman).



An enthusiastic traveller, Linnea visited nearly all of the lower 48 states, many of them in her capacity as audition judge for the National Guild of Piano Teachers. She made regular trips around Texas, too, sometimes with her piano students in tow (for competitions and conventions) but sometimes just as a tourist, and on one occasion, to see Halley's comet from Marfa. There was no town or city in Texas she didn't like to visit; no road she didn't enjoy travelling; no Texas accent that didn't delight her. And, incidentally, she named "Research Boulevard", which at the time was a little-travelled road on which her husband's company - an offshoot of UT's Defense Research Lab - had set up shop. The landlord had asked for ideas, and Linnea came up with the name, thinking it was a good counterpart to "Exposition Boulevard".

In 2002, Linnea moved to Oregon to be near her daughter; there, she accompanied the Memory Tones choir for several years and sang in the Eugene Women's Chorus. She continued to relish traditional Christmas Eve lutefisk dinner, and even toward the end of her life, she still played the piano beautifully. She never lost her ability to find joy in the moment.

Linnea was preceded in death by a brother Carl O. Bergquist and great nephews Forrest and Bryce Hallmark. She is survived by son Thomas Smith (and Tracey Bartlett), granddaughter Helena Smith (and her mother Suzanne Bates), daughter Marian Smith (and Carl Woideck), sister-in-law Kate Bergquist, niece Jone Hallmark (Cullen and Grayson), and nephews Bill Bergquist (Carriline, Leila, and Jake) and John Bergquist (Wendy, Cece, and Haiden). The family thanks Sheldon Park Memory Care, especially Franklin Stewart. Memorial contributions may be made to [Doctors Without Borders](#), the Southern Poverty Law Center, or the International Rescue Committee.

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