

**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:

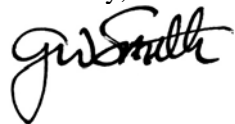
Thank you for submitting documentation regarding the historic and architectural significance of the Ada LeBlanc Simond House, on 2005 Hamilton Avenue in Austin. The house was built in 1939 for Dr. Charles Yerwood and his wife Ada Marie DeBlanc Simond. Dr. Yerwood died in 1940, and in 1949, Ada married 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gregs@thc.state.tx.us). Thank you for your interest in the preservation of Texas' rich heritage.

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Smith  
National Register Coordinator

