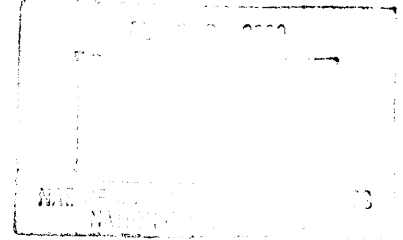


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

207



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Louis B. Simmons House

other names/site number N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 401 N. 9th Street not for publication N/A
city or town Duncan vicinity _____
state Oklahoma code OK county Stephens code 137
zip code 73533

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Handwritten Signature]

01-22-01

Signature of certifying official

Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

[Handwritten Signature] 3/2/01

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register

See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the

National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>business</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
roof ASPHALT; FIBERGLASS
walls STUCCO

other METAL--tin S-tiles

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- N/A
- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
 - B removed from its original location.
 - C a birthplace or a grave.
 - D a cemetery.
 - E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
 - F a commemorative property.
 - G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1922

=====
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
=====

Significant Dates 1922

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 (one) acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	595700	3818600	3	—	—
2	N/A See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Dianna Everett, Public Historian

organization _____ date 10 November 2000

street & number 2510 Countrywood Lane telephone (405)348-4272

city or town Edmond state OK zip code 73003

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Chris Jefferies

street & number 401 N. 9th Street telephone (580) 252-8803

city or town Duncan state OK zip code 73533

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Louis B. Simmons House
name of property
Stephens County, Oklahoma
county and State

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SUMMARY:

The c. 1922 Louis B. Simmons House is a one-story, detached, Spanish Eclectic style single dwelling located at 401 N. 9th, Duncan, Oklahoma. Its primary visual character is established by a flat, parapetted, castellated roof and strip windows in the west, south, and east elevations. In keeping with its Spanish Eclectic style, the house features stuccoed exterior walls, a patio, and multi-light windows and doors. Alterations include the closing of a south-side entrance and installation of a bay window in that opening, at an unknown date. The House's compound plan, with L-shaped projection on the west, was "regularized" into a rectangle c. 1949 by the addition of a concrete vault and the enclosure of the space between the vault and the kitchen wall. Otherwise, original design, materials, and workmanship on the exterior retain their historic integrity. The residential setting remains as it was historically. The Louis B. Simmons House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture as the best example of Spanish Eclectic Architecture of the 1920-1940 period in Duncan, Oklahoma.

DESCRIPTION:

The Louis B. Simmons House, located at 401 N. 9th Street in Duncan, Oklahoma, is a one-story, detached, horizontally massed building designed in Spanish Eclectic style. The house was built c. 1922. The building measures 40 feet north-south and 62 feet east-west, including an L-shaped projection to the west; an additional 11-foot projection comes off the west wall. In plan, the original building was compound. The principal mass was virtually square, with room-size projections off the west wall (see attached 1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map). A late 1940s addition of an 11-foot vault and enclosed porch filled in the west side and created a new projection on the west. The main axis is east-west, along Beech Avenue, but the main entrance faces N. 9th Street. The setting, historically and presently, is residential. One alteration to the historic setting was removal of the house on a residential lot across the street to the south. The lot is now a parking lot for a nearby church.

Due in part to Spanish heritage, Spanish Eclectic style was fairly common in the south-central (Texas-Oklahoma) region and in the American Southwest proper. The style came into prominence after the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, which popularized Spanish Colonial Revival or Mission architectural style. Use of the Spanish Eclectic variation, which combines elements of Spanish architectural

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styles as well as borrowing from other contemporaneous styles, became widespread in the early 1920s, peaked around 1930, and declined in the 1940s.

Spanish Eclectic style offers pitched- and flat-roofed varieties. The primary visual characteristics of the latter version can generally include asymmetrical main elevation, parapet, stucco wall surface, use of red tile as a roof covering or decorative elements, and multi-pane windows and doors, all of which are seen in the Simmons House. In flat-roofed versions, pent (visor) roofs are sometimes placed above wall openings. Decorative details reflect many aspects of Spanish architecture. Roof tiles may be Mission (half round) or modern Spanish (S-tiles). The Louis B. Simmons House evinces many of the characteristics of the flat-roofed version of Spanish Eclectic and is the one of two examples of this style in the Duncan Central Residential District(see below, Architectural Significance).

The Simmons House's roof is flat and parapetted. Upwardly projecting, stocky castellations rise from the parapet to mark the three original entrances and the corners of the building. The parapet is capped with a plain concrete coping between the castellations on the east half of the building and on a north-side chimney. On all sides, the parapet and castellations are covered with a moulded metal flashing that adds to the horizontal emphasis. Around the entire house is a tiled pent attached to the wall below the parapet. The tile is made of sheet metal (dents are visible in dozens of areas) and it emulates modern Spanish, or S-type, tile, in two rows. At each place where the pent turns a corner, a decorative scrolled tile projects outward. An internal chimney rising in the center of the house has a new metal furnace vent. A new television antenna is also located on the roof.

The east, or main, elevation on 9th street is symmetrical, with a centrally placed entrance. This elevation is visually dominated by a massive entry porch flanked by large window areas. The wide porch and its wide overhang make a passing reference to Craftsman style, also popular at the time. The porch is raised five steps above ground level. Heavy but hollow, octagonal-shaped wood columns support the porch roof. Projecting from the porch, at floor level, and embracing the steps are balusters that end in short, half-hexagonal posts. The porch floor is original four-inch ceramic tile, and the ceiling is made of new perforated/mesh metal panels. A concrete border around the porch floor extends to form the balusters' concrete cap. The tiger-oak single door is set with lights in 3x5, and side lights set in 2x5 pattern. Flanking the porch are pairs of tall, casement-opening,

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Louis B. Simmons
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2x5 wood windows that light the living room, on the north, and the study, on the south. On the outside the bottom of the windows is flush with the porch floor, and inside the windows are flush with the floor.

The south side, along Beech, is primarily characterized by an off-centered opening that was formerly a ten-foot-wide stoop with an entrance. At an unknown date the entrance was filled in with a bay window, with wood fixed window units. The central unit has 4x6 lights, and the flanking units are 2x6. The porch steps were removed, leaving only truncated, octagonal pilasters, with concrete caps, in place on either side. The tiled pent continues over this area without interruption, and a half-hexagonal flat projection, covered with the original tiles, also shelters the bay. To the east of the bay is a strip of wood-framed, casement-opening windows, in 2x6 pattern. A small window to the west of the former entrance is double-hung and set in 6x1 pattern; it illuminates a bathroom. To the west of this are two sets of wood-frame, double-hung, 6x1 four-unit strip windows. These illuminate the bedroom and the sun room.

The west, or rear, elevation was originally characterized by being an L-shaped projection from the principal mass. In the projection are the original bedroom and a sun room. At an unknown date, but c. 1949, an addition was made that filled in and squared off the northwest corner. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1923 and for 1931/Corrected to 1942 and 1948 still show the original footprint. Still remaining on the west is a four-window strip of wood-framed, 6x1-light units that illuminates the sun room. Part of the addition is a windowless concrete vault measuring approximately ten by twelve feet, that juts northwest from an original house corner.

The north elevation is also characterized by complexity. The east end of the north wall is marked by an external chimney that projects from the wall and is decorated with a shallow concrete "column". Flanking the firebox are paired, small, wood-framed, casement-opening windows each in 2x3 glazing pattern. The chimney projects up through the tiled pent. A large open porch, or patio, is placed off-center in the north wall. The patio accesses the dining room through an entry that has paired wood 3x5 French doors flanked by tall 2x5 side lights. These are not the original units but were installed in 1998 to restore the presumed appearance of the original units. Extending from the porch and embracing the steps are hexagonal balusters with concrete caps. To the right of the entry is a small projecting room with small, wood, 6x1, double-hung windows on three

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sides (breakfast room). The rest of the north wall, to the west of the breakfast room, jogs in about 6 feet and is the north wall of the kitchen. To the right of this is the c. 1940s enclosed porch that joins the original building with the vault (see above, west side description). The roof of the enclosure is a shed-type, and it appears to cover the tiled pent and may use it for support. The enclosure is wood-framed and covered by narrow lapboard, very deteriorated. Two 6x1 wood-framed double-hung windows are placed to the left of the entrance to the enclosure; these may be the windows originally on the north (sun room) wall before the porch was added. The single-light wood panel door appears to be of the period. The porch is accessed by a metal-pipe stoop and concrete steps. A metal awning shelters the entrance. Inside the enclosed porch, in the west wall of the kitchen, is the original wood-panel, single-light kitchen door. To the right, or south, of the kitchen door is an original, small, 1x1 wood-framed window. Facing the original kitchen door is the door of the vault, or safe, now used for a pantry. The enclosed porch is also accessed from the interior by a small, single-light, wood panel door leading out from a bathroom.

All of the windows were covered with aluminum storm windows at an unknown date, but prior to 1998. These do not detract from the historic integrity. The house has a raised basement under the kitchen and bedroom area. Basement windows have been boarded over on the south and west elevations and are not readily visible because of shrubbery. An air conditioner condenser sits outside the north-side enclosed porch, and a wood fence is attached to the garage and runs north to the alley.

Interior

The house's historic interior plan remains generally intact. The east side contains the "public areas," that is, the living room and adjacent study. The living room is accessed by the front entry, and double French doors lead to the left, or south, into the study. Double French doors lead from the study into a "den," which is the location of the original south entrance (now a bay window). A narrow hallway leads from the den into the private rooms. In the southwest corner (the original L-shaped projection) are a large bathroom, a bedroom, and a sun room. In the north wall of the sun room a narrow doorway leads to a strangely placed and configured, small bathroom, part of the c. 1949 alteration. Another narrow doorway in the north wall of the bathroom accesses the enclosed porch on the north side of the House. The living room also leads to rooms on the west, beginning with a double opening (no doors) into the dining room. To the west of

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the dining room are the small breakfast room and a small kitchen. The enclosed porch is also accessed by the original kitchen door. On the porch, to the left of the kitchen door, original steps lead down into a basement.

The Simmons House's interior still retains the original millwork and panel doors, elaborate mouldings, farmhouse oak flooring throughout, and tiled fireplace surround in the living room (a wooden mantelpiece is new). Original gas lighting jets are still in place in the walls in the kitchen, den, and bedroom. The kitchen features a c. 1930s gas cook stove and large vent hood.

A small, wood-framed, stuccoed building sits approximately twenty feet northwest of the house. Likely built contemporaneously, the garage appears on the 1923 Sanborn map. The building is styled like the House: it has a flat, parapetted roof with corner castellations and metal-tiled pent identical to that on the main building. There are two double-hung 6x1 windows on the east and two on the north. On the east side, to the north, a single wood-slab door, with relatively new metal screen door, accesses the living area, or servant's quarters. The south half of the building is the garage, with vehicle entrance. Here there is a pair of slab doors hinged on the sides. The garage is unfinished inside; the servants' quarters is finished, but no plumbing or electrical fixtures remain.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for 1931, corrected to 1942 and 1948, show a tiny garage and dwelling on the west side of the property, on the alley. These were removed at an unknown date.

ALTERATIONS:

Alterations to the exterior have been relatively minimal. There is some evidence to suggest that the house was slightly remodeled at some time before 1950. As noted above, on the south side, the entrance stoop was enclosed with a bay window and the steps were removed. At the northwest corner the original L-shaped projection was squared off by the addition of the vault at the corner of the sunroom; the space between the vault and the kitchen was enclosed by a framed wall, creating a space for the small bathroom and a securable porch. In the process of doing this, it appears that north windows were removed from the original sun room wall and were reused in the enclosure wall. Strangely, the shed roof of the enclosure was attached at an angle, slanting toward the west, in order to make contact with the top of the vault. The little doorway from the porch into the bathroom is shorter than an average door opening.

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The doorway leading from the north-side patio into the dining room have also been altered, but this is not on a principal elevation. The original doors, presumably multi-light French doors, had been removed at an unknown date. At that time the opening was framed in and the wall given a regular single door flanked by regular-sized single-pane window units. The present owner removed this incompatible alteration and replaced it with units that more closely reflected the style of the door in the east elevation and the interior doors.

Removable metal awnings once shaded the windows on the south elevation. There is no indication that the awnings were original to the house. They were removed in 1998 but the brackets remain to give evidence of their placement.

Close examination of the Sanborn maps and city directories for the 1940s and 1950s, coupled with the history of Rocket Oil Company, lead to the tentative conclusion that the alterations to the property may have occurred coincidentally to the transformation of the residence into a business headquarters. This would explain the construction of a vault and also the construction of the strange little bathroom and the lockable, enclosed porch. However, this evidence does not preclude the alteration having been made earlier, if Simmons was accustomed to conducting some of his business activity in his House in the 1930s and 1940s. Some remodeling may have occurred c. 1937, as that date is stamped on fixtures in the little bathroom off the enclosed porch.

Despite these changes, the integrity of the house's most important architectural features and principal elevations are uncompromised. Still intact are the roofline, with the castellated parapet and red tiled pent. On the two principal elevations--east and south, the fenestration is intact: the south side, the multi-light strip windows remain; and on the east side, the massive porch, multi-light door and side lights, and tall casement windows are as original. These architectural elements still retain integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. In addition, the historic setting is still basically intact. The present House is well able to transmit these attributes, as well as the feeling and association of the historic past and is, therefore, eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture.

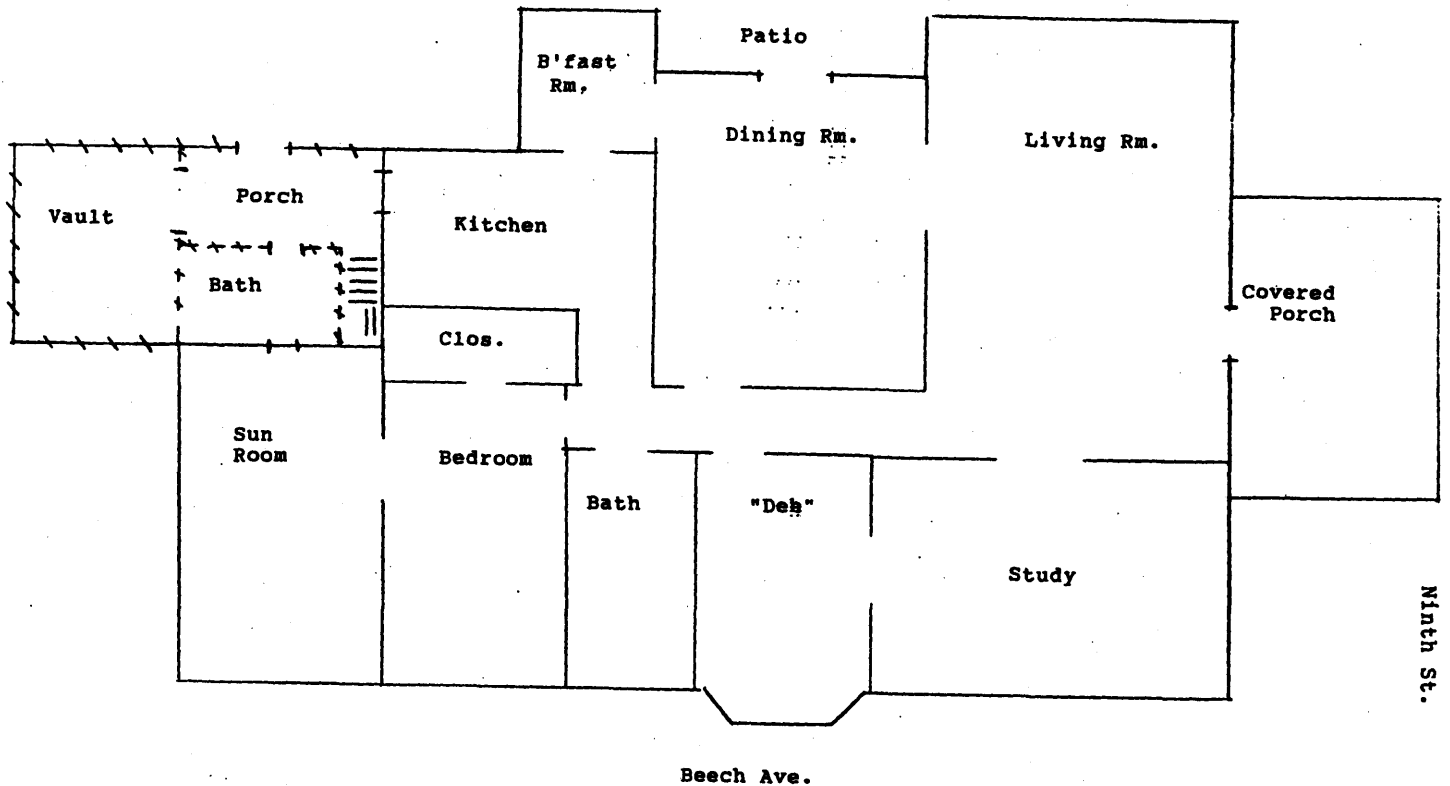
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PLAN Louis B. Simmons House
401 N. 9th St., Duncan, Okla.
Not to scale
Hachures indicate c. 1949 (?) addition



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Louis B. Simmons House
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SUMMARY:

The Louis B. Simmons House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture. Built c. 1922, the Simmons House is significant within the architectural context of Duncan, Oklahoma, because the building is the best example of Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival, also called Spanish Eclectic, architecture, within the city's Central Residential District. It is one of only two Spanish Eclectic style Houses in the district. In design, appearance, and feeling, the house embodies the distinctive characteristics of Spanish Eclectic style, which was popular nationally from the 1920s into the 1940s, a period which coincided the construction of virtually all of the existing historic residences in Duncan.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Duncan, Oklahoma, is the principal town of Stephens County, Oklahoma, created from the former lands of the Chickasaw Nation in 1907 at the time of Oklahoma statehood. (The western portion of the county was created from the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache reservation as well.) While the lands were still attached to American Indian groups, ca. 1867, a man named Fitzpatrick built a store on the Chisholm Trail at a point on Cow Creek, two miles northeast of present Duncan. The historic Chisholm Trail passed close to the present town in the post-Civil War era. In the early 1870s, Fitzpatrick apparently sold his operation to a man named William Duncan, who later moved his operation to a spot in what is now the town of Duncan. (1) The store housed a post office as early as 1884. The location of Duncan's store changed, and the town of Duncan's future assured, when the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad built its line through the county in 1892. The new town was named for him. The official date of establishment, according to Duncan residents, is June 27, 1892, when the first passenger train stopped. William Duncan became a townsite promoter, leasing town lots in the years preceding statehood. By 1901, the date at which the platting of the original town was completed, the population numbered 1,164. (2) Duncan became the county seat at statehood.

Located at the center of a very productive agricultural service center, Duncan became an agricultural service center. Cotton, the primary crop, was brought to Duncan to gin, and farmers traded locally for their equipment and necessities. Until the discovery of oil in 1918-20, agriculture, in terms of both

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farming and ranching, remained the mainstay of the economy of Stephens County and Duncan. Cotton processing in the 1892-1929 era included gins and cotton oil mills, and the town offered grain elevator and flour milling services. Access to the railroad made the town a headquarters for cattle feeding and shipping.(3) By 1910 the population numbered 2,477; it grew by 1920 to 3,463, by 1930 to 8,363, and by 1940 the population reached 9,207. The trend continued, and by 1950 the population topped 15,000.(4)

In 1918-1920 oil exploration reached Stephens County with the discovery and development of the Empire Field. Petroleum production surrounded the town, and Duncan became a central point for locating the various industries that serviced the oil fields. Oil brought boom times to Duncan.(5) A number of nationally important business located there, including Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Services. Large production companies, such as Magnolia Petroleum and Carter Oil, built offices and shops in and near town; smaller companies, such as Rocket Oil Company, followed suit. Refineries cropped up on the outskirts of town. These included the Western Oil Corporation Refinery and the Pauline Oil and Gas Company Refinery; a third, the Rock Island Refinery, was founded by Louis B. Simmons in 1921.(6)

Simmons, born in Tennessee in 1876, had come to Texas after World War I. In Wichita Falls he entered the oil business and moved his interests to Duncan in 1921 where he subsequently founded Rocket Oil Company, Rocket Island Oil Company, and Rock Island Refining Company, headquartered at 401 N. 9th Street. His production area was in Stephens, Garvin, and Carter counties. The Rock Island Refinery grew from a capacity of 1000 barrels/day in 1922 to 6,500 barrels/day in 1936. The company owned its own pipeline system from the fields to the plant, where it made a product named "Rockilene" that left the plant in a fleet of tank cars also owned by Rock Island Refining. The gas was wholesaled to distributors in Oklahoma and twelve other states.(7) The entrepreneurial activities of L. B. Simmons, Erle Halliburton, and other oil men contributed to Duncan's rapid population growth population and fueled the expansion of the central business and residential districts in the 1920s.

By 1921 City fathers touted their hometown as "a competitor to Tulsa, Okmulgee, and Ardmore" because of its twelve oil supply houses and "fourteen large lumber yards which supply rig timbers and special types of lumber for oil work." These boosters characterized their city as "a cosmopolitan little city, with paved streets, fresh new buildings and an air of wide-awake alertness."(8) Within this

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milieu the residence at 401 N. 9th was constructed, c. 1922, presumably by the owner of the property at that time, P. R. Harris.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT:

Duncan's present-day architectural character developed in several waves of activity that are directly related to economic activities. A 1999 survey of the Central Residential District identified several building periods in the first half of the twentieth century. The first two periods are important for establishing the architectural context surrounding the Louis. B. Simmons House, which is the subject of this nomination. The first time period encompassed the era 1900-1919, when agriculture was most important; and the second encompassed the era 1920-1929, when the petroleum industry was paramount. Few buildings remain from the earlier era. Especially absent are wood-frame residential buildings. Much of the residential property in the central district was constructed during the oil boom period, and often these new "show homes," of substantial construction materials and features, replaced earlier, smaller houses on the same lots.(9)

The oil boom of the 1920s brought prosperity, and new wealth encouraged oil producers to make their success visible by building a new, modern home. Wealth therefore brought about a spate of new construction in the Central Residential District, a proposed historic district that lies north of "downtown" and is bounded generally by Hickory Avenue on the north, Eighth Street on the east, Beech/Oak Avenues on the south, and Eleventh Street on the west.(10) According to the 1999 survey report, "Generally, speaking, the most visually and architecturally striking components of Duncan's landscape are the single family dwellings built in the 1920s as the expansion of the petroleum industry ushered in a new wave of prosperity." The Central Residential District is also described as "one of the first cohesive single-family residential neighborhoods to develop in Duncan."(11)

Within the Central Residential District, house styles vary. According to a 1999 architectural survey of the district, 69 single dwellings were identified for further study, and these exemplified twelve different architectural styles. Of these varieties of National Folk Houses predominate (18 single dwellings identified). Bungalow/Craftsman styles are second (14 single dwellings) in number, followed by a few representatives of each of the twentieth-century revivals.(12) Of the 69, only 9 were recommended for National Register consideration. Two houses

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 Louis B. Simmons House
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in the Central Residential District are represented on the National Register of Historic Places: the H. C. Chrislip House, 709 N. 14th, for Criterion C, architecture (NR 93000677); and the Brittain-Garvin Residence, 411 N. 19th (NR 00001039). The Crislip House is a modest, stuccoed Mission Revival style house, accented with textured stucco, vigas, and arched openings. The Brittain-Garvin House is a large, frame Prairie School building. The single representative of Spanish Eclectic style, with its characteristic flat, parapetted roof, multi-light strip windows and French doors, stucco wall finish, and patio, (13) is the Louis B. Simmons House at 401 N. 9th.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The 1999 survey identified only one Spanish Eclectic-style residence in the Central Residential District, that being the Louis B. Simmons House, at 401 N. 9th. Outside of the district, at the corner of 13th Street and Chestnut, is another version of the Spanish Eclectic style. This house has lost much of its integrity due to neglect and alteration. In addition, one example of Pueblo Revival (another offshoot of Spanish Colonial Revival) was noted at 1226 N. Grand. The 1999 survey recommended the Louis B. Simmons House at 401 N. 9th Street as "National Register eligible because of its high degree of architectural integrity, its style, and its connections with the petroleum-generated wealth of the 1920s." (14)

The Simmons House is sited in Block 105 of the Original Town of Duncan. This lot was acquired in 1902 from the Chickasaw Nation by the Weaver family, which continued to own the property through the early 1920s. They, presumably, built a small, wood-frame House on the lot. In 1920 the family sold the property to P. R. Harris, who may have been the individual who razed the original House and built the existing one. A substantial property value increase, shown in the Register of Deeds in 1922, is corroborated by a 1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map that shows the plan of House that is now on the property. (15) Subsequently, in 1926 the property was purchased by C. P. Baker. Louis B. Simmons and his wife, Ola, acquired the residence in 1927. (16) The Simmonses lived in the House at 401 N. 9th through 1953, after which they moved to 1212 W. Cedar. Around the time of World War II Simmons relinquished control of Rock Island Refinery and formed his own new petroleum company, Rocket Oil Company. In 1954 he set up its headquarters in his former residence at 401 N. 9th. Rocket Oil remained in those premises through at least 1990 (L. B. Simmons died in 1968). (17) In the 1990s Southwestern Energy

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Production Company owned the property before selling it to the present owner in October 1998. Thus for its first three decades existence (including the entire historic period) the house served as residential property, and for the next four decades as business property.

The Louis B. Simmons House is significant within Duncan, Oklahoma's architectural history because it is the town's best example of Spanish Eclectic architecture. It is the only house of that style built in the Central Residential District and one of only two in the town. As the one significant representative of this style, retaining the original, defining characteristics of the style, and reflecting the intense period construction and reconstruction in Duncan during the oil boom, the Louis B. Simmons House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, Architecture.

ENDNOTES

1. *History of Stephens County* (N.p.: Stephens County Historical Society, 1982), xi-xii, 107-109.
2. *Ibid.*, 107-109; *Duncan Centennial Celebration 1892-1992* (Duncan, Okla: n.p., 1992).
3. *Oklahoma Annual Almanac and Industrial Record--1908* (N.p.: n.p., 1908), 69; John W. Morris, "Regional Multipurpose Cities," in *Cities of Oklahoma*, ed. John W. Morris (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1979), 36-37; "Duncan, County Seat of Stephens County," *Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine* 7 (October 1908): 81.
4. John W. Morris, "The Oil Centers," in *Cities of Oklahoma*, ed. Morris, 68; Morris, "Regional Multipurpose Cities," 37.
5. "Duncan, a Town Built by Oil," *Harlow's Weekly* 21 (21 April 1922): 10-11; "McCasland Section," 75th Anniversary Edition, *Duncan Daily Banner*, 25 June 1967. Morris, "The Oil Centers," 77-79; Weedman (no first name), "Duncan History," WPA Typescript, 5 May 1936 (Vertical Files, Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City); Sophia Thompson, "Duncan," WPA Typescript, 15 May 1936 (Vertical Files, Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City).

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Endnotes (continued)

6. "McCasland Section," 75th Anniversary Edition, *Duncan Daily Banner*, 25 June 1967; "Duncan 90 Years Old," 27 June 1982.
7. Weedman, "Duncan History"; *History of Stephens County*, 885-886.
8. "Duncan, a Town Built by Oil," *Harlow's Weekly* 21 (21 April 1922), 10-11.
9. Alyson L. Greiner, "Reconnaissance Level Survey of Duncan, Oklahoma 1999-2000," Department of Geography, Oklahoma State University, September 2000 (File, State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City), 174-175.
10. Ibid., 11.
11. Ibid., 169, 91.
12. Ibid., 35-36.
13. Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989), 417-18, 428-29.
14. Ibid., 62.
15. Owners' records, derived from Register of Deeds, County Clerk Office, Stephens County, Oklahoma; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Duncan, Oklahoma, September 1908, April 1914, March 1923, October 1931, October 1931/Corrected to 1942/1948 (Microfilm, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond).
16. Book 187, p.210, Register of Deeds, County Clerk Office, Stephens County, Oklahoma; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Duncan, Oklahoma, 1908, 1914.
17. *Polk's Duncan City Directory, 1928* (Kansas City, Mo.: R. L. Polk & Co., 1928); *Duncan City Directory, 1936* (N.p.: n.p., 1936); *Duncan, Oklahoma, City Directory, 1938-39, 1940-41, 1946-47, 1948-49, 1952-53, 1954-55, 1956-57* (Oklahoma City: Lloyds National Directory Company).

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- Duncan, Oklahoma, City Directory, 1938-39, 1940-41, 1946-47, 1948-49, 1952-53, 1954-55, 1956-57*. Oklahoma City: Lloyds National Directory Company.
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

All of Lot 8 (eight) and the east 25 feet of Lot 7, Block 105, Original Town of Duncan, Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

These are the legal boundaries of the property, as recorded in the Register of Deeds of Stephens County, Oklahoma, Book 2198, page 10.