

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 10 1979

DEC 11 1979

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Arnold-Simonton House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rankin St. near Worsham St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Montgomery

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

339

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Montgomery Historical Society

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P. O. Box 513

CITY, TOWN

Montgomery

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Conroe

STATE

Texas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark

DATE

1964

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas



# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☒ MOVED DATE Nov. 1977

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Arnold-Simonton House is an early Texas Greek Revival structure in the small town of Montgomery, Texas. Although moved one block from its original site, the house remains on the original E. J. Arnold 21-acre tract of land near the heart of Montgomery's 1/2-mile radius corporate city limits. The new location has not changed the original environs. Similar to the old lot, the new site is situated on a gravel road surrounded by 19th century residences to the north and east and undeveloped, wooded areas to the south and west.

Built in 1845 the original portion of the Arnold-Simonton House is a one-story, five-bay residence with a central hall, four-room plan. The north (front) elevation displays a one-bay, central, pedimented portico, supported on two octagonal columns. The columns were damaged during the recent move and have been truncated. They are temporarily resting on square piers. These will be restored according to the original design. Sheltered by the portico, the main entrance is a single door surrounded by five-light sidelights and an eight-light, square pane transom. An identical doorway with sidelights and transom terminates the central hall on the south facade, but this entrance is now obscured on the exterior by rear additions.

Flanking each side of the north entrance are two two-over-two light windows with a simple frame. The east and west facades display three identical windows, two opening into the front (north) rooms and one into the rear rooms. With the addition of bathrooms, probably in the 1930's, small windows were added between the two front windows and the rear window. The original windows probably contained six-over-six lights, for the proportions are more typical of the Greek Revival period. The present windows will be replaced by the more typical Greek Revival lights during the restoration. Interior brick chimneys on the east and west facade were removed at some time in the 20th century and may have been located where the small windows have been cut. These, too, will be replaced.

A double pitched roof with gable ends facing the east and west sides crowns the original portion. During restoration wood shingles will replace the current composition shingles. Dentil trim beneath the eaves adds classical detail to the portico and three sides of the house.

The original house contained a detached kitchen, but at some later date a kitchen wing was added across the south (rear) facade. A later addition to the rear, which had been converted to a garage, collapsed during the move and will not be replaced because of its recent vintage.



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1845 Additions--1930s BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built c. 1845 the Arnold-Simonton House represents the oldest house surviving in the town of Montgomery and one of two houses remaining from Texas' period as an independent Republic. Architecturally, the house is a good example of the vernacular Greek Revival form, which began to appear in Texas in the 1840's. The owner, Dr. E. J. Arnold was prominent in medical circles, as well as politics and government. The building, which housed Arnold and his descendants for 132 years, represents an important historical link with Montgomery's settlement and evolution as a community.

Dr. E. J. Arnold, who had come to Texas from Connecticut, settled in Montgomery in 1835. In 1845 he replaced his original log residence with this frame structure, using the old house as his office. A prominent local physician, Arnold was also active in state politics, served on the early Board of Medical Censors for the Republic (1837), donated land for the Montgomery Academy chartered in 1848 and served on their Board of Trustees. After his death in 1859, Arnold's daughter and son-in-law, Ludie and Reuben D. Simonton inherited the house. The Simonton family continued to live in the house until the death of Emma Gay Simonton in 1976. As a charter member of the Montgomery Historical Society, Mrs. Simonton opened her historic home for tours for some twenty years. At her death the house was threatened with demolition, but the younger son agreed to donate the house to the Montgomery Historical Society on the condition that they move the house to the adjacent block. The house was moved in 1977 and following restoration, it will be used as the headquarters for the Society.

The new location does not alter the original environment. Sited on a portion of Arnold's original 21-acre tract, the house remains on a similar lot within the same historic neighborhood. Within 3 to 5 blocks are 8 antebellum homes, several Victorian and early 20th century houses and an early 20th century church and bank.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Owen, Bessie & Anna Weisinger, "Arnold-Simonton House," Information prepared for NR application, 1978.

Owen, Bessie, "Arnold Simonton House," Vol. II. 1978

Tharp, B. Carroll. Information regarding alterations & restoration plans. May 18, 1979.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Montgomery, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 240 440 336 454 5

B                  

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

.3 acre land in the Zachariah Landrum Survey, 70 ft. along the south side of Rankin St. and 144.8 ft. east of Worsham St.--192 ft. south from this point making a lot 70 x 192 on south side of Rankin betw Worsham & property now owned by Methodist Church.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Marie D. Landon, Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Texas Historical Commission

September 15, 1979

STREET & NUMBER Box 12276, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE 512 475-3094

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Austin

Texas

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL XX

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

DATES September 28, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/11/79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12/8/79



Property

Arnold-Simonton House

State

TK (Montgomery)

Working Number

10-10-795450

79002996

## TECHNICAL

Photos

5

Maps

1

## CONTROL

Town's oldest house - move has not impaired integrity.

## HISTORIAN

accept

Grosvenor

12/8/79

Greek Revival house, locally significant as oldest house in town, one of only 2 remaining from Republic period; good example of vernacular style; and for associations with prominent family for 132 years. Moved to avoid demolition; now owned by historical society which plans restoration

## ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept

O'Connell

12/6/79

## ARCHEOLOGIST

## OTHER

## HAER

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

## REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept

Grosvenor

12/8/79

## BRANCH CHIEF

## KEEPER

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered DEC 11 1979

Federal Register Entry

2-3-81

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_







Arnold-Simonton House  
Rankin St. near Worsham St.  
Montgomery, Montgomery County, Texas

OCT 10 1979

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical  
Commission, 1979

North elevation

Photo #145

DEC 11 1979







Arnold-Simonton House  
Rankin St. near Worsham St.  
Montgomery, Montgomery County, Texas

OCT 10 1979

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical  
Commission, 1979

Northwest oblique

Photo #295

DOE  
DEC 11 1979







Arnold-Simonton House  
Rankin St. near Worsham St.  
Montgomery, Montgomery County, Texas

OCT 10 1979

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical  
Commission, 1979

Southwest oblique

Photo #345

DEC 11 1979







OCT 10 1979

Arnold-Simonton House  
Rankin Street near Worsham Street  
Montgomery, Montgomery County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Montgomery Historical  
Society, 1979. Date of photo unknown.

House on original site.

Photo #4 45

DOE  
DEC 11 1979







OCT 10 1979

Arnold-Simonton House  
Rankin Street near Worsham Street  
Montgomery, Montgomery County, Texas

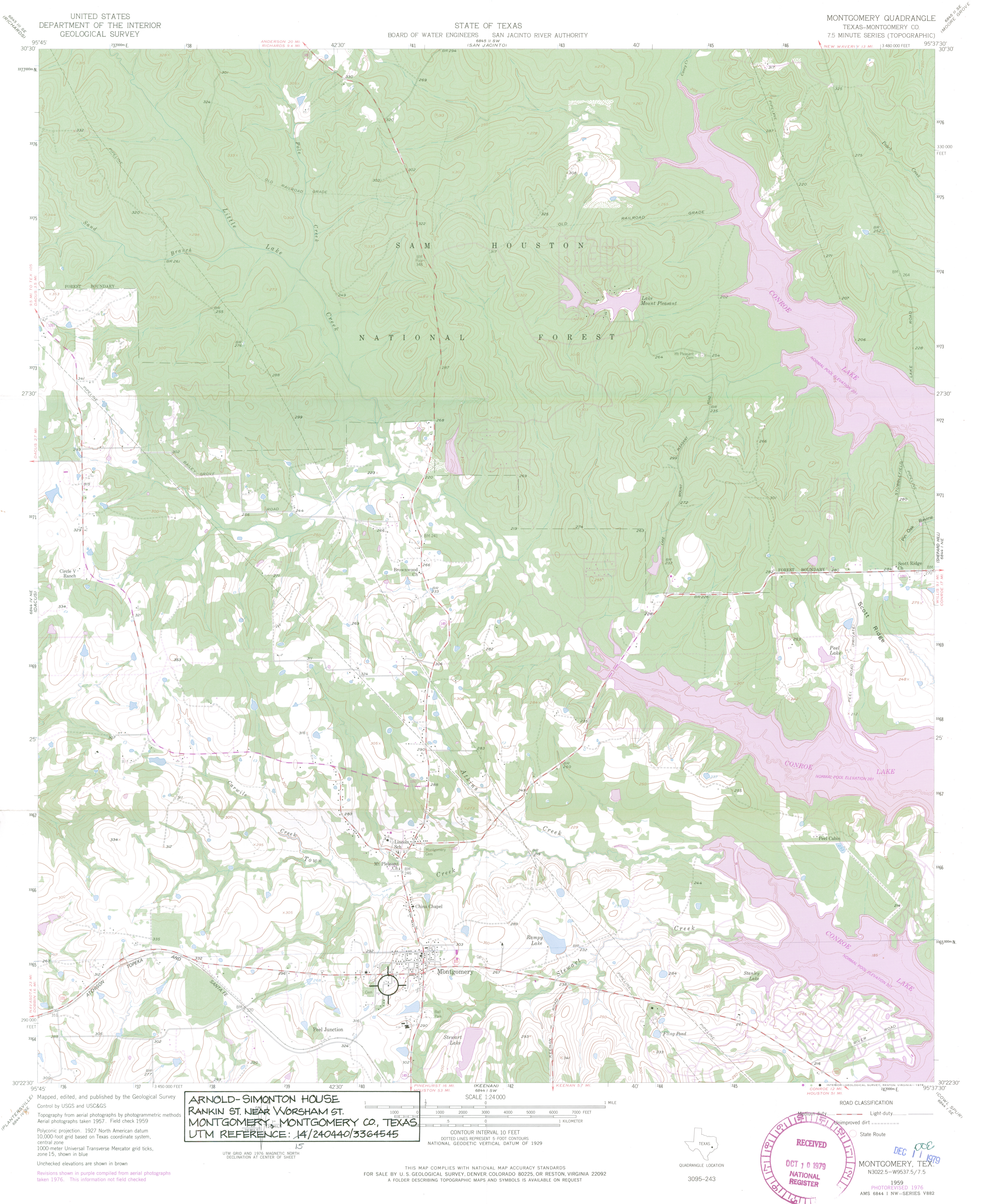
Photo courtesy of Montgomery Historical  
Society, 1979. Date of photo unknown.

House on original site.

Photo #545

DOE  
DEC 11 1979





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF TEXAS  
BOARD OF WATER ENGINEERS  
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY

MONTGOMERY QUADRANGLE  
TEXAS-MONTGOMERY CO  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1959  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,  
central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1976. This information not field checked

**ARNOLD-SIMONTON HOUSE**  
**RANKIN ST. NEAR WORTHAM ST.**  
**MONTGOMERY, MONTGOMERY CO, TEXAS**  
**UTM REFERENCE: 14/240440/336455**

UTM GRID AND 1976 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



3095-243



MONTGOMERY, TEX.  
N3022.5-W9537.5/7.5  
1959  
PHOTOREVISED 1976  
AMS 6844 1 NW-SERIES V882



44  
Arnold-Simonton House  
10-23-79

Montgomery  
Co

Rt. 2, Box 45  
Montgomery, Texas  
Nov. 5, 1979

TX

Charles A. Herrington  
Acting Keeper of National Register  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Dept. of Interior, Pension Building  
440 G. Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20243 (Attn: NOM)

Dear Sir:

Re: Arnold-Simonton House  
Montgomery Historical Society  
P. O. Box 513  
Montgomery, Texas 77356

As chairperson of the Montgomery County Historical Commission as well as an active member of the Montgomery Historical Society, I would like to make a few comments as to reasons the above building should be listed in the National Register:

1. It is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture remaining in our state.
2. It is most likely the oldest home still standing in Montgomery County--certainly the oldest in the town of Montgomery.
3. It is one of the very few buildings still standing in Texas that were constructed while Texas was still a Republic.
4. Historically, it has housed persons and events important to the Republic and State of Texas as well as to Montgomery and Montgomery County.

According to recent research, it was here a meeting was called and letters written concerning annexation.

5. Rehabilitation plans include making it useful as a repository and research center for local and state history as well as using many furnishings of the period and area.
6. Its location is suitable for it to become the center of cultural, educational, and social activity for the town and for this part of Montgomery County.



7. The little city of Montgomery was the first seat of government for Montgomery County. It was incorporated in 1848 with a city limits within a one-mile radius of the Courthouse.

The builder of this house was a civic leader in every community activity. His Simonton and Arnold descendants have followed in his footsteps. This house has been their home throughout the years.

8. Last but not least, the small group of people who are restoring and making useful this place need to be on the National Register in order to obtain financial aid.

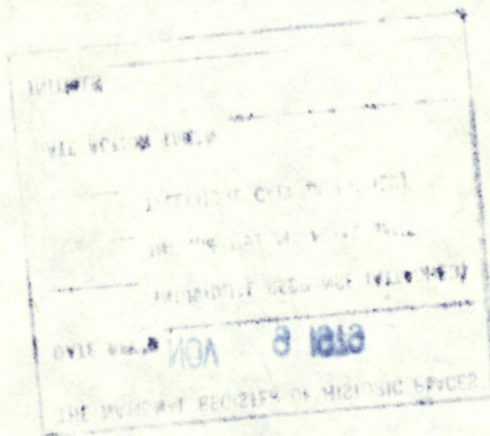
The Montgomery Historical Society, organized twenty-five years ago to manage the affairs of a homes tour with the purpose of encouraging preservation and restoration, has done much in the community. But now, this group of dedicated people have undertaken this tremendous restoration project in order to save this most worthy building from certain destruction. We are looking toward listing in the National Register in order to qualify for Federal grants-in-aid.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

*Bessie Owen*

Bessie Owen, Chairperson  
Montgomery County Historical Commission  
Rt. 2, Box 45  
Montgomery, Texas 77356





11/20  
THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D NOV 9 1979

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS



Montgomery  
Co.

**P. O. BOX 1475**

MONTGOMERY, TEXAS 77356

Reuben Simonton, President  
Henry F. Carwile, Secretary  
Joe Jackson  
Claude Giles  
Mary C. Duncan  
Charles Mock  
Valerie Peel

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Gifton Underwood  
**HIGH SCHOOL PRIN.**  
Bobby Ezell  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL PRIN.**  
Robert W. Simmons III  
**ELEM. SCHOOL PRIN.**  
W.H. Gandy

$T\alpha$

Ref. to: Arnold-Simonton House  
Montgomery Historical Society  
P.O. Box 513  
Montgomery, TX 77356

I am principal of the Montgomery Elementary School at Montgomery, Texas. Besides educating boys and girls, one of my concerns is recording and preserving the history of our country. I am a member of the local Historical Society and state Historical Survey Commission. For my masters thesis I wrote a history of Montgomery County. My wife and I are presently restoring her grandparents home located here in Montgomery, and we are fully aware of the cost and time of restoration.

In the town of Montgomery, we have many houses worthy of saving, but one in particular, the Arnold-Simonton House, is my greatest concern. This house has changed very little since 1845, a fine example of this period's architecture and has been in the same family and used as a doctor's residence since it was built. It was built near the crossroads of two early stagelines, the Houston-Cincinnati and Washington-Liberty lines.

If this house could qualify for the National Register, it is a good possibility we could use it for a museum or library, both duly needed in our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

W.H. Gandy, Principal  
Montgomery Elementary School

WHG/SS



2116

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	NOV 13 1979
_____	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)
_____	INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT
_____	TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)
DATE ACTION TAKEN _____	
INITIALS _____	



48  
Arnold-Simonton  
House  
10-23-79

Montgomery, Texas  
Nov. 7th 1979  
Box 652-

Re. (Arnold-Simonton Home.)

(TX)

Chas. A. Herrington,  
acting Keeper National Register  
Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service  
Dept. Interior - Pension Bldg.  
440 G St., N. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20243.

Dear Sir -

I am writing for my sister and myself  
in regards to this house being included in  
National Register.

Our Community is part of the Stephen F  
Austin, River Colonies. Montgomery was the  
County Seat 1837 to 1889. It was the third  
town in Texas to be incorporated.

It was the Stage Coach stop between  
Huntsville and Houston for years.

Dr Arnold was one of the first Drs in our  
area and his home has been lived in by  
his descendants until about three years ago  
when the Ninty odd year old widow of his  
grandson passed away. The house is still  
in a fair state of repair.

It is on the original tract of ground and  
is only one block off Highway 105, Connecting  
Austin (Our State Capital) to New Orleans, then Beaumont.

It is now the property of the Montgomery  
-over-



Historical Society, who are most anxious  
to restore it and use it for Civic activities  
We humbly request your favorable  
Consideration.

Respectfully,

(Mrs) Anna Davis Weisinger  
(Mrs) Cecil Davis West.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	NOV 13 1979
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)	
INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT	
TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)	
DATE ACTION TAKEN	
INITIALS	

db  
11





ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered DEC 11 1979

Name

Location

Starr House

Marshall  
Harrison County

Old Morris County Courthouse

Daingerfield  
Morris County

Arnold-Simonton House

Montgomery  
Montgomery County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower  
Honorable Sam B. Hall, Jr.  
Honorable Charles Wilson

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director  
Texas State Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

NR Byers/bjr 12/17/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 343-6401.