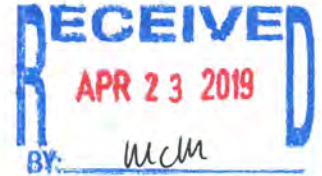


File #



CITY OF KEY WEST TREE COMMISSION
HERITAGE TREE NOMINATION FORM



DATE: 4/23/19

TREE LOCATION: SIMONTON ST. Key West FL 33040

PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PROPERTY: Public

TREE NAME/SPECIES: MAHOGANYS

NOMINATOR NAME: CHARLES (CHUCK) BANKS

ADDRESS: 1122 SIMONTON APT. 1 PO BOX 4392

CITY, STATE, ZIP: Key West, FL 33040

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Chuckybox378@gmail.com

PHONE: 305 304 9568

ARE YOU THE PROPERTY OWNER (YES) (NO)

*Approval from the Property Owner will be required to process application

- Tree is a unique specimen, size and/or age
- Tree is connected to a historical event/building, or individual
- Tree was dedicated/planted as a memorial
- Other

**Attach supporting documentation including photos, newspaper articles, or any additional text or letters.

Sketch a location of the tree below:

26 MAHOGANYS ON SIMONTON ST
PLANTED 1934 TO PROMOTE TOURISM
BY WPA AND OTHERS (WWI VETERANS ETC.)

Fate Of Mahogany Trees Is Discussed

Representatives of several Key West civic and cultural organizations descended on the city commission last night to ask that mahogany trees on Simonton St. be preserved if the city ever undertakes a widening or sidewalk repair program there.

They argued for more than an hour that the natural beauty of the trees is one of Key West's most important assets and that a real effort should be made to preserve them.

They were alerted after a bill was passed in the state senate authorizing the city to use cigarette tax money to widen and repair the sidewalks on Simonton and Fleming Sts., and Truman Ave.

At the conclusion of last night's discussion, they were told by the commission that there is slight chance that a street widening program will be undertaken in the near future because, among other things, the city does not have the money.

The discussion also brought out the possibility that a city park commission may be appointed in the near future to oversee the city's plant life.

That suggestion, which met with favor from a majority of the commission, was advanced by Mrs. Emily Goddard, representing the Key West Garden Club.

Mrs. Gertrude Byrns, of the Key West Woman's Club, was the first to speak before last night's meeting. Pointing out that in the mid-30s Key West had had tree specimens that grew nowhere else in the United States, she said that most of them have since been destroyed.

Natural Beauty

"The garden club is against having any more of the natural beauty of Key West destroyed," said Mrs. Byrns.

Mrs. Goddard then took the floor. She told of how the government sparked a beautification program here in depression days in an effort to promote the city's tourist business. She added that the Navy, even now, has an intensive program of beautification on the Naval Station. That the city's gardening program is lagging, was pointed up by Mrs. Goddard when she said that "25 year old trees are being bull-dozed by bullheads."

Mrs. William R. Warren, a

Mayor-Elect Stands Pat In Galveston

GALVESTON, Tex. (AP)—Galveston's mayor-elect, who takes office late today, defied the City Commission and Texas Rangers, stood pat against the ministerial association and pledged a fight for his plan to throw the town wide open to gambling and prostitution.

Galveston, an island resort city, always has been known as a place where you could risk some money or visit a house of pleasure in defiance of the state's laws. But discretion has been the motto of

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1955 Key West Citizen

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Mrs. William R. Warren, a pioneer Key West resident active in gardening circles also decried possible loss of the trees, pointing out that this was the second time she had fought to save them.

Legislators Advised

Mrs. Nora K. Smiley, of the Key West Art and Historical Society, told the commission that organization has had also joined the fight to save the trees and had wired Monroe County's legislative delegation in Tallahassee to protest the bill.

Cmdr. Ray Byrns, of the Key West Players also asked the commission to spare the trees.

Net result of the discussion was a motion by Commissioner Jack Delaney that the city confer with the Garden Club before any widening program on Simonton St. is undertaken. His motion was amended by Commissioner Delio Cobo that the club also be consulted on a projected beautification plan for the city parking lot for which the city is negotiating.

It passed unanimously.

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pagation of rare trees and palms; c.) by the extensive and costly replanting of the main entrance to the Yard; d.) by the culture and preservation of all the lovely old trees within the gates.

Now as to the tourists. We all know they come to enjoy the climate, the fishing, the swimming and the quaintness (fast disappearing from the city). We doubt very much that they come here for the shopping. Some of our merchants who wish to denude our streets of shade trees in the name of progress, would have us so believe! Trees are not only things of beauty but nature's air-conditioners. Is it not more pleasant to walk or park your car in the shade than in the glaring sun? Ask any tourist.

Key West has been blighted by human termites before as one can easily verify by looking at old photographs of the island preserved at the Art and Historical Society. By 1910 the magnificent stand of original mahogany trees had all been cut down. You see the stark frame houses huddled together in ugly nakedness reminiscent of Western boom towns. Now think back to the black days of the depression and the herculean task undertaken by the Federal Government to put this community back on its feet.

Surveying the most likely chances for survival and progress - Tourism was chosen as the cornerstone on which these planners began to build. What was one of their very first moves? Beautification. The planting of trees. (No-one wishes to take a leisurely walk or bicycle ride under the hot sun.) So we saw them putting in Poinciana trees on Whitehead St., orchid trees on Margaret, Coconuts and mahoganies on many streets.

Who guided this planting? None other than Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Phelan, Miss Parker, Mr. Kirke to name a few. Backbreaking work, but worth it to see the city emerge

Smathers Raps

200

1955

Key West Citizen

26 MAHOGANYS
ON SIMONTON
OF THAT
SIZE

LL SIMONTON



File # _____

City of Key West Heritage Tree Program Property Owner's Agreement

Breg Veliz

I, City Manager (printed name), as a voluntary participant in the City of Key West Heritage Tree Program, do hereby give the City of Key West (the "City") permission to display on the City's internet website the following information regarding the Heritage tree(s) on my property: species name, size measurements, and county where the tree(s) is/are located.

I acknowledge that the City will retain the following information in order to revisit the tree(s) and update their records in the future: my contact information, including name, mailing address, phone number, and email address; a map or directions to the tree location; and the latitude and longitude where each tree is located. The display of my information on the website shall be subject to my wishes indicated below. The City will prominently display verbiage on the website instructing interested parties who wish to visit my champion tree(s) to request permission from me either by phone or in writing before attempting to do so.

I acknowledge that all information provided to the City, including, but not limited to, the location of the Heritage tree and my contact information, is a public record subject to disclosure in accordance with chapter 119, Florida Statutes, regardless of whether the information is displayed on the internet website.

In consideration of the above, I agree to hold the City, its employees, and agents harmless from any and all claims, liabilities, causes of action or damages whatsoever, including all costs and attorney's fees, arising from the display of the information and photographs agreed to herein on the City's internet website.

I do _____ do not _____ (check one) give the City permission to display my contact information, including address, telephone number and email address, on the website, as well as a map or directions to the tree location, and the latitude and longitude where each tree is located.

I do _____ do not _____ (check one) give the City permission to display one or more photographs of my tree(s) on the website.

I do _____ do not _____ (check one), as parent or legal guardian of the minor(s) shown in any above referenced photos, approve the above release and waive any rights in the premises.

Property Owner's Signature: _____ Date: 12-5-19

Tree ID#: _____ Species: Mahogany Location: Simonton + Southard +

[Form Revised: 4/16/2019]

right of ways

Karen DeMaria

From: Hambright-Tom <Hambright-Tom@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:43 PM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: RE: History of Simonton Street Mahogany trees

1930's
WPA - KW

The mahogany tree were WPA and I am not sure about the Poinciana trees ,

Tom Hambright

From: Karen DeMaria [mailto:kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:54 PM
To: Hambright-Tom
Subject: History of Simonton Street Mahogany trees

Tom:

I am looking for any information you might have regarding the mahogany trees that were planted on Simonton Street many, many years ago. I am told that most if not all the mahogany trees along Simonton, Southard, etc.. were planted in the 1920's maybe as part of the WPA stuff?? Someone said the men planted mahogany trees and the women planted the Royal Poinciana trees along Whitehead Street. What is their story and where exactly were the plantings. I am dealing with the possible removal of a few of the trees due to noncompliance with Federal Vehicular safety laws and am looking for information to help determine possible alternatives.

Sincerely,

Karen

Karen DeMaria
Urban Forestry Manager/Tree Commission
Certified Arborist
305-809-3768

WPA = Works Progress Administration

Karen DeMaria

From: chuckyboy378@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:44 PM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: Re: Hi. Just a few items to start on the mahogany trees

Yes Karen. Its also shows how bleak an empty the street was then. After wpa planted the mahogany trees it was so much prettier. Ready for tourism.

Sent from my LG G4, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message-----

From: Karen DeMaria
Date: Thu, Mar 16, 2017 3:04 PM
To: chuckyboy378@gmail.com;
Cc:
Subject: RE: Hi. Just a few items to start on the mahogany trees

Three items were received, thank you. Love the photos of the Gato Cigar fire. It does show the power lines which means the trees were planted under the power lines.

Sincerely,

Karen

From: chuckyboy378@gmail.com [mailto:chuckyboy378@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov<a="">>/kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov<>
Subject: Hi. Just a few items to start on the mahogany trees

Sent from my LG G4, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone



MM 000 21075
Fire at Gato Cigar Factory on Simonton Street
on December 17, 1915
From the Dale McDonald Collection
Monroe County Library



THE CITY OF KEY WEST
 TREE COMMISSION
 Heritage Tree Program
 Information Sheet

Date: 11-6-19

Address: Southard Street From Catherine St to Front St.

Number of Trees: _____

Common Name of tree: Mahogany

Scientific Name of Tree: Swietenia mahagoni

Circumference (inches, measured 4.5 ft from ground on trunk): see attached list Height (ft): X

Canopy Spread (ft): see attached list GRS: X see attached list

Approximate Age: planted in 1934 = 85 yrs old

Status of Species (Native/Indigenous/Caribbean/Invasive): native

Noteworthy Facts or Features: trees were plant in 1934 by the WPA and WWII veterans to beautify the City and help to promote tourism. Trees were planted along Southard + Whitehead also.

two major plantings occurred - 1934 and in the 1950's.

Location Map: See attached aerial.

Tree circumferences fall into two distinct size ranges. Those trees that were measured below 7ft circumference were not included in this list.

Two trees that met the circumference criteria were not included in the review due to their declining health:
#15 (gardens Hotel area - Angela St)
#31 (near front St)

Truman Avenue

#13

#12

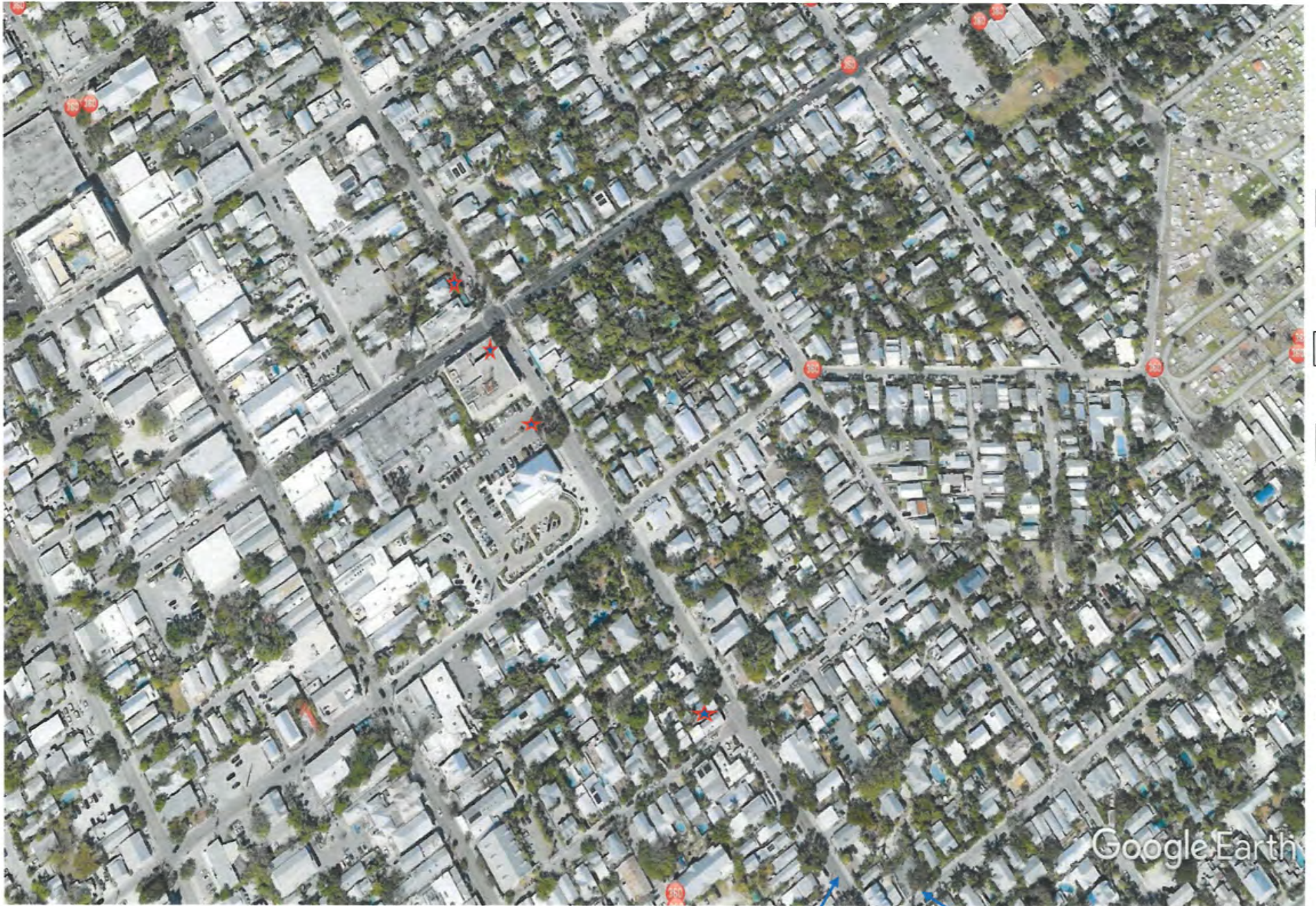
#10



#1

Catherine Street

Simonton Street



#19

#17

#16

#14

Simonton Street

Olivia Street

Front Street



#28

#27

#26

#25

#24

#23

#22

#20

Simonton Street

24 trees total

Simonton Street Mahogany

1934 Planting

time	tree #	circ	notes
24.33:00 081.47:47	1	8 ft 9 in	
Catherine St	2	8 ft 3 in	balls
	3	7 ft 7 in	
	4	11 ft	
	5	8 ft 10 in	
	6	10 ft	
Taman	7	10 ft 3 in	Better than Sex
	8	9 ft	
24.33:10 081.47:55	9	11 ft	830 Simanton
	10	10 ft	818 Simanton
	12	8 ft 4 in	
	13	7 ft 8 in	
	14	11 ft 7 in	724 Simanton
24.33:18 081.48:01	16	12 ft 6 in	Fire Station
Southard	17	7 ft 8 in	
24.33:26 081.48:07	19	7 ft 9 in	
	20	8 ft 8 in	
	22	9 ft 4 in	Church
	23	8 ft 2 in	poor condition
	24	7 ft 10 in	
Eaton St	25	7 ft 8 in / 6 ft 2 in	(measured below cut / measured above cut)
	26	9 ft 7 in	
	27	10 ft 10 in	court house
	28	9 ft 10 in	