



## NOMINATION FORM HALF MILE OF HISTORY

### Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event: TYLER CIVIC THEATRE CENTER

The nominee is being honored for outstanding contributions in the area(s) of (please check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention/Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

### Section B: Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: John A. Anderson

Address: 400 ROSE PARK DR.

City: TYLER State: TX Zip: 75702

Daytime telephone: 903 330-1000 Email: johnanderson@sbcglobal.net

Relationship to nominated individual: BOARD PRESIDENT

Nominated Individual's year of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominated Individual's year of death: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section C: Narrative

The narrative section of the application is the most important. It is the primary source of information judges use to make their selection of new inductees. The two-page narrative submittal must utilize size 12 Times New Roman font and be double spaced. Please include a recommended 25-30 word marker caption at the end of the narrative. Any additional material will be referred to only for verification of accuracy of the nomination. No submitted materials will be returned.

The narrative section must contain an explanation of the nominee's enduring contribution that make this person/place/event worthy of the honor. Please describe the impact the nominee has had on the community, county, region, nation and/or world. For individuals, please include any honors earned by the nominee as well as a list of organizations in which the nominee has been involved. Also, please indicate their educational background as well as the length of time the individual has lived in Smith County. Inclusion of photos is preferred but optional. Do not send original photos. All submitted materials will become property of the City of Tyler and its Historical Preservation Board.

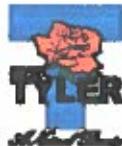
**Please submit nominations to:**

City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board

Attention: Half Mile of History

P.O. Box 2039

Tyler, Texas 75710



## HALF MILE OF HISTORY

*Honoring Historical Achievements in Tyler and Smith County, Texas*

### Background

The Half Mile of History is a cultural and historic landmark program paying tribute to people, places and events that have contributed to the City of Tyler and/or Smith County. The Half Mile of History will tell the story of the rich history of Tyler and Smith County to present-day and future citizens.

### Description

The Half Mile of History is a permanent, outdoor walk-around loop that covers an approximate one-half-mile stretch of sidewalk surrounding the square in the heart of downtown Tyler.

People, places and events chosen for the Half Mile of History will be honored with a commemorative plaque placed in the sidewalk within the designated area. Those selected for inclusion and placement of the plaques will be at the sole discretion of the City of Tyler with recommendation by the City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board.

### Selection Criteria and Process

Nominations must involve outstanding contributions to the City of Tyler or Smith County. Possible areas to be considered are (but not limited to):

Agriculture	Entertainment/Media	Philanthropy
Architecture	Government/Military	Religion
Arts and Culture	Industry	Science
Aviation	Invention/Innovation	Sports
Business/Corporate Leadership	Law	Transportation
Community Service	Medicine	Other
Education	Oil/Gas	

The major contribution(s) must have been made no fewer than 25 years ago.

Nominated individuals must be deceased and from Smith County or individuals who have spent a significant amount of time in Smith County.

A Judging Committee comprised of members of the City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board will make final selections based on how the nominee's contributions have an enduring impact on the community, county, region, the nation and/or the world. Recommendation for inclusion in the Half Mile of History will then be made to the City of Tyler City Council, which will have right to approval or disapproval of the nomination.

Nominations for inclusion in the Half Mile of History will be considered at the end of each quarter of the calendar year. Submissions must be made on or before the last business day of the quarter in order to be considered for inclusion in that quarter's nomination evaluation process.

The Judging Committee will consider the information contained within this application and the two additional pages. Additional materials will be used solely to assist in verifying the nomination of those selected for the Half Mile of History. Sources of any claims or statements should be included to facilitate the evaluation by the Judging Committee.

Induction ceremonies will be held at a time and date to be announced by the Historical Preservation Board.

**Tyler Civic Theatre Center  
NOMINATION FORM NARRATIVE  
HALF MILE OF HISTORY**

**SECTION C: Narrative**

Tyler Civic Theatre Center, Inc. was incorporated as a State and Federal non-profit organization in 1949. TCTC is approaching its 65<sup>th</sup> consecutive season of providing outstanding amateur plays and musicals to “Entertain, Enrich and Educate through Theatre”. The incorporation coincided with the building of a 130 seat Theatre at 400 Rose Park Drive. The driving force behind the designing of a theatre in the round was Alfred Gilliam, who at that time was the Director of the Circle Theatre at Tyler Junior College. He and Mildred Stringer sketched out a “square” or round theatre, with a floor stage and elevated seats on all four sides, thereby allowing attendees an up-close and personal interaction with the performers. In 1951, the first theatre in the United States designed solely in-the-round opened with Alfred Gilliam as the first Director of Tyler Civic Theatre Center. A position he held until his death in 1988.

The Theatre is acknowledged as the first and longest continually operated “Theatre-in-the-Round” in the United States. In 2002, with the addition of the Braithwaite Theatre, the original theatre was renamed as the “Rogers Children’s Theatre” in memory of Tyler philanthropist Robert M. Rogers. It continues to this day to be used on a daily basis for the theatrical education of children and young adults, as well as for performances featuring actors in their age groupings.

**Tyler Civic Theatre Center  
NOMINATION FORM NARRATIVE  
HALF MILE OF HISTORY  
Page two**

**SECTION C: Narrative (Continued)**

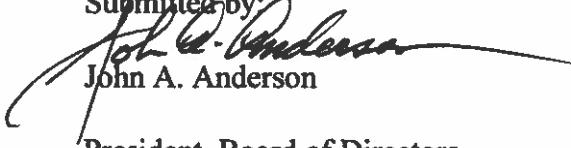
Over the past sixty-four years Tyler Civic Theatre Center has averaged six major productions per year to an estimated audience of 50,000 individuals. TCTC is a member of Texas Non-Profit Theater Association, the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce and the Tyler Metro Chamber of Commerce. The Board of Directors, the actors and the crew are volunteers who give of their time, talent and treasures to allow TCTC to provide Tyler, Smith County and east Texas the finest theatre experience possible.

The Board of Directors has approved the formal submission of this nomination and respectfully requests its approval on behalf of all the individuals who have performed in, volunteered for and/or attended outstanding productions at Tyler Civic Theatre Center.

**MARKER CAPTION**

Tyler Civic Theatre Center, a historic venue for community theatre, was established in 1949 and is the longest continuously operating theatre "in-the-round" in the United States.

Submitted by:

  
John A. Anderson

President, Board of Directors.

## *About the*

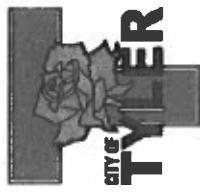
# *Half Mile of History*

The City of Tyler's historic preservation program, the Half Mile of History, resulted from a recommendation that came out of the Tyler 21 planning process. The fifth goal of the Historic Preservation Chapter is:

*"Promote and display diverse aspects of Tyler's history to enhance resident and visitor awareness of its importance."*

The goal of the Half Mile of History is to pay tribute to people, places and events that have contributed to the rich history of Tyler and Smith County.

The Half Mile of History is a permanent, outdoor, half-mile loop that surrounds the square in the heart of downtown Tyler. Stone plaques are placed in the sidewalk along the Half Mile of History to commemorate significant people, places or events.



*A. Howard Bannister*

# *Half Mile of History Marker Unveiling*

*in honor of*

*Tyler Civic Theatre Center*

*and*

*Thomas Bannister*

*Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014*

*Tyler Civic Theatre Center* is approaching its 65th consecutive season of providing outstanding amateur plays and musicals to "Entertain, Enrich and Educate through Theatre." The incorporation coincided with the building of a 130-seat theatre at 400 Rose Park Drive. The driving force behind designing a theatre-in-the-round was Alfred Gilliam, who at that time was the *director of the Circle Theatre at Tyler Junior College.*

Over the past 64 years, the *Tyler Civic Theatre Center* has averaged six major productions per year to an estimated audience of 50,000 individuals.

*Thomas Bonner* was born in Mississippi in 1838 and moved with his parents to Rusk, Texas, in February 1850.

He entered Confederate service in April 1862. After the war, Bonner farmed until 1866, and was admitted to the bar in 1867. In 1872, he moved to Tyler, where he entered the banking business with E. C. Williams.

Bonner represented Rusk County in the state legislature, and in 1876, he was elected to the legislature from Smith County. He was speaker of the House during the ensuing session. After a term in Austin, he returned to Tyler to organize another bank, Bonner & Bonner, where he served as president until his death in 1891.

*Half Mile of History Marker Unveiling*  
*in honor of*  
*Tyler Civic Theatre Center*

*and*

*Thomas Bonner*

*Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2014*

*Opening Remarks: Mayor Barbara Bass*

*Half Mile of History honoree histories by:*

*Historical Preservation Board Member Jim Robertson*

*Historical Preservation Board Member Bryan Campbell*

*Unveiling of Markers and Certificate Presentation*

*Responses:*

*Special Announcements:*

*Adjourn; reception following*