



**CERTIFIED LOCAL
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

**LUBBOCK COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Findings and Recommendations Regarding the National Register Nomination of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company Building

In July 2025 the Texas Historical Commission notified Lubbock County and the Certified Local Government Committee of a proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company Building at 611 23rd Street. State statutes require Certified Local Governments to review and offer comments on any National Register nomination before it is considered for adoption by the Texas Historical Commission State Board of Review.

Pursuant to this statutory obligation, the Lubbock County Certified Local Government Committee met on August 6, 2025, and compiled the following comments and findings regarding this proposed nomination. The draft nomination reviewed by the CLG Committee is posted at the THC State Board of Review's website for public review and comment ahead of its planned meeting of September 19, 2025: <https://txhistory.sharepoint.com/sites/SBRDraftNominations/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?ga=1&id=%2Fsites%2FSBRDraftNominations%2FShared%20Documents%2FPublic%2FLubbock%2C%20Pittsburgh%20Plate%20Glass%20Company%20NR%20SBR%20Draft%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FSBRDraftNominations%2FShared%20Documents%2FPublic>.

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General Findings and Comments

Lubbock and Lubbock County are fortunate to have developers interested in adaptive reuse projects and applying for historic redevelopment support through various federal and state tax-credit programs. We are also fortunate that the 1950 Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company building has survived seventy-five years with so much of its original integrity intact.

The CLG Committee concurs that the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company building is eligible for and worthy of listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C as described in the nomination document. The nomination narrative is extremely well written, and we want to complement the authors for their diligent research, use of primary sources, and thorough explanations; this nomination document is one of the best we have seen in many years. That said, we did find a few technical errors and potential omissions.

The CLG Committee noted the following technical errors in the nomination document:

- a) On page 7, the narrative states that the “Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad is two blocks south.” This statement implies a through-line, but that main railroad line runs along Southeast Drive approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile east of the subject property. The area referred to by the narrative is today the terminus of a railroad spur at the northwest end of what formerly was the main railyard for the Fort Worth & Denver South Plains, with a web of spur lines that supported numerous businesses throughout the area’s industrial district, including the PPG Building. [The spur is now owned by BNSF by way of Burlington’s affiliation with and eventual absorption of the Fort Worth & Denver.]
- b) In the comparative analysis section and Table 1, the authors have misidentified the building on 2906 Texas Frontage Road as the Lubbock Sheet Metal Building. Lubbock Sheet Metal’s building was at 2902 at the north end of the block. The structure the authors are referring to is 2908 Texas Frontage Road, which originally opened as Lubbock Fire Station No. 3 (see additional information below).
- c) In the bibliography of sources from the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University, there is one error (to Texas Technical University and the citation is unclear. The citation should be replaced in its entirety with: Portfolio & Project Index, Atcheson, Cartwright, and Rorex Collection, 1978, S1681.1.

The historical narrative does an excellent job of describing and demonstrating the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company building under Criteria C at the local level of significance, including good descriptions of the building architects, Atcheson & Atkinson. However, the CLG Committee was disappointed to not see more included about Tidmore Construction. As prominent as Atcheson & Atkinson was among the Lubbock architectural community, Tidmore Construction was very prominent among regional builders, and was one of the largest such companies in Lubbock in the 1940s–50s. They built several grocery and retail commercial centers (including the major Monterey Shopping Center at 50th Street and Elgin Avenue), school and college buildings, and municipal projects—including the comparative property Lubbock Fire Station No. 3, 1947 [see *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, 15 & 24 November 1946]. The

authors were unaware of Tidmore's autobiography, which was privately published in 1984 (Tidmore, Max, *Yesterday*, Lubbock: Duncan Press). In it he refers to the PPG project: "Pittsburg Plate Glass asked for bids on their building during September and we were awarded the job. TCC [Tidmore Construction Company] was very busy during 1949" (p. 96). Tidmore included a photograph of the completed building on p. 134. While a small detail, the CLG Committee felt this was a lost opportunity to profile an important and influential Lubbock contractor the way that the architects were profiled. Attachment 1 contains a brief suggested description that could be incorporated, as well as a list of selected Tidmore-built projects in Lubbock.

The CLG Committee also offers a general observation about references to the adjacent Interstate Highway 27 and a local rail spur. In some instances the narrative implies that the proximity of both may have factored into the decision by PPG to build at this location. On page 7 in starting the narrative description the building is described as "conveniently sited near former rail lines and the interstate highway." On page 11 the narrative notes that the building "retains its historic setting in an industrial area of Lubbock adjacent to a railroad line and the interstate highway." Further on page 18 it states "eventually the interstate highway was conveniently constructed along the western elevation." While stated in passing elsewhere (caption to fig. 11, p. 45) that the interstate had not yet been completed, the CLG Committee suggests the narrative lends unwarranted significance to the proximity of I-27 and the railroad. The interstate highway, which was not built through this area until 1990–92, played no role in the decision to select this site.

We suggest the location alongside 23rd Street was of greater significance, as it was the "main driveway" through this industrial neighborhood. It provided direct access to Avenue A (then US Highway 87, redesignated as Business US 87 after I 27 opened) five blocks to the east and downtown thoroughfare Avenue H (then US Highway 84) two blocks to the west, both of which had quick connections to almost every other major street and highway in Lubbock. This, combined with access to a Fort Worth & Denver South Plains Railway spur (coming from the south to a terminus beside the PPG Building), were the likeliest driving factors in the choice of this location. As noted in the narrative, at the time of construction railroad freight was already in decline (but still in some use) while truck freight was increasing. Thus being able to receive railroad deliveries and then use a purpose-built facility to then load freight trucks for regional deliveries likely dictated the location choice. The modern proximity to I-27 is a coincidental happenstance, and we are indeed fortunate that the highway alignment was not a block eastward where it would have consumed this building.

If further research work is called for, we suggest consulting and adding to the bibliography two works: the Tidmore autobiography discussed above, and Paula Shaw Deering, "Art Deco Style in Lubbock and Amarillo," M.S. thesis, Texas Tech University, 1984. While neither title is likely to contribute significant new, specific information regarding the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company building, we do believe that both sources contribute to the general context of the building's place and significance in Lubbock.

Recommendations

The CLG Committee does not feel that the defects above make the nomination inadequate, nor does it necessarily disqualify it from moving forward. We recommend that the State Board of Review (SBR) advance the application in the nomination process; however, if the SBR chooses to seek corrections or inclusion of additional information, we hope the authors would consider our comments.

In addition the CLG Committee and the Lubbock County Historical Commission would like to convey to the building owners of our interest in working with them in the near future to pursue an application for a state historical marker and recognition of the building as a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark. We also again compliment the authors for their fine discussion of the history and context of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company Building.

Additional Information on Tidmore Construction Company

Max Tidmore (1916–2001) and W.B. “Dub” Rushing (1910–2007) returned to Lubbock in late 1945 after the conclusion of World War II and opened the business they named Tidmore Construction Company. Tidmore was a registered engineer and headed the construction operations while Rushing handled the real estate transactions and financing. Lubbock was booming during the postwar period, and the company built many buildings during this time, including the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Warehouse. The company had other projects (mostly shopping centers) all over West Texas, including Wichita Falls and Abilene.

Outside of the construction company Tidmore and Rushing were also independent real estate developers and owned banking, insurance and oil interests. Both were community leaders until their deaths, involved in numerous civic organizations and local politics. Tidmore was Mayor of Lubbock from 1964–1966.

Selected Existing Buildings Constructed by Tidmore Construction Company

- City Fire Station #3, 2908 Texas Avenue 30th Street and Texas Avenue, 1946
- Retail Strip, 1302-12 Avenue Q (west side between 13th Street to 14th Street), 1947
- Womble Olds, 1211 19th Street at Avenue L, 1949 (also designed by Atcheson & Atkinson)
- Park Place Shopping Center, 1407 19th Street at Avenue M, 1948 (first “suburban” shopping center)
- Matthew Junior High School, 451 N Akron Avenue, 1952
- Anson Clark Office, 1802 Avenue Q, 1951
- Cobb/Hemphill Wells Parking Building, 1313 Avenue J, 1954
- Morton Foods, 404 34th Street, 1952
- Baker Company, 1301 13th Street, 1956
- Monterey Shopping Center, 50th Street & Elgin Avenue, 1960

Source: Tidmore, Max. Yesterday. Lubbock, Tex.: Duncan Press, 1984.