



O'NEIL FORD CIVIC COMPLEX

O'NEIL FORD PROMINENT TEXAS ARCHITECT, WAS BORN IN PINK HILL, TEXAS IN 1905 AND MOVED TO DENTON AT THE AGE OF 12. HE GRADUATED FROM DENTON HIGH SCHOOL AND ATTENDED NORTH TEXAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE, NOW THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS.

FORD DESIGNED HIS FIRST RESIDENCE THE MARY MARSHALL HOUSE HERE IN 1929. IN 1939, FORD EARNED NATIONAL PROMINENCE WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE LITTLE CHAPEL IN-THE-WOODS ON THE TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

AMONG FORD'S MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARCHITECTURE OF DENTON ARE THE BUILDINGS OF THE CIVIC CENTER COMPLEX. THE CIVIC CENTER WAS BUILT IN 1966. THE CITY HALL, BUILT IN 1967, DISPLAYS MANY POPULAR FORD THEMES, INCLUDING DOORS CARVED BY HIS BROTHER, LYNN FORD, CERAMIC LIGHT FIXTURES, AND SALTILLO TILE FLOORS. FORD AND HIS FIRM DESIGNED ADDITIONS TO THE EMILY FOWLER PUBLIC LIBRARY IN 1969 AND 1980.

FORD CREDITED HIS PURSUIT OF THE CREATIVE LIFE TO HIS FASCINATION WITH THE DENTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE. "I USED TO JUST STAND THERE, WONDERING HOW THEY EVER GOT IT UP... I WAS IN DENTON JUST THE OTHER DAY... SO I WENT OVER TO LOOK AT THE COURT HOUSE AGAIN AND STILL DON'T KNOW HOW THEY EVER DID THAT BLASTED, BLESSED THING."

O'NEIL FORD DIED ON JULY 20, 1982,
IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

THE O'NEIL FORD CIVIC COMPLEX,
DEDICATED ON JULY 31, 1993
BY THE DENTON CITY COUNCIL