

**VIRGINIA “JINI” SIMPSON
6022 NORTH 51ST PLACE
PARADISE VALLEY, AZ 95253
RECOMMENDATION TO TOWN COUNCIL
February 12, 2026**

On October 15, 2025, Jini Simpson presented her home located at 6022 North 51st Place to our Committee for consideration to the Historical Property Recognition Program. Jini has contributed significantly to the Town, serving on the Town Council, the Planning Commission, the Barry Goldwater Memorial Committee, and the Historical Advisory Committee.

The history of the Simpson home dates to the early 1960s, when Jini’s in-laws, Adele and Fred Simpson, purchased the property with the intention of building a winter home for their family. At that time, George Christensen was actively building homes in Paradise Valley, particularly several on 51st Place. Adele Simpson was drawn to Christensen’s distinctive architectural style and commissioned him to design and construct their winter home.

Scott Simpson, Jini’s husband, spent much of his youth in the home and always aspired to own it one day. In 1991, Jini and Scott were able to purchase the home from Scott’s mother, making Paradise Valley their permanent residence.

George Christensen built the house in the territorial style, utilizing adobe brick. In the inside, he used tongue and groove wood boards for the ceilings and adobe brick or matching wood boards on the walls. Christensen’s appreciation for artisan craftsmanship is evident throughout the home. Christensen hired Mexican craftsmen to create intricate details including carved niches for Santos and traditional corbels in the archways. The artisans even hand carved a wooden Santo on the cover of the fuse box. Christensen imported an arched window from Mexico City, and he built custom wood paneled shutters for another window. The living room fireplace features a hand-carved wood mantle while the dining room fireplace is elevated so the family could feel the warm fire while enjoying a meal. Christensen installed beautiful ironwork on the windows for protection when the home was vacant. Because the property has a natural arroyo running through it, Christensen made a bridge to access the pool area and what would later become the guest house. An uncommon element is the kitchen skylight, added at Adele Simpson’s request to improve lighting despite Christensen’s reservations regarding its modern appearance.

When Jini and Scott moved in, they made several enhancements to the home, including replacing cement floors with Saltillo tile, adding additional skylights and more ironwork for the windows. They also added a room to house their extensive Kachina Doll collection, which Jini’s son has carefully cataloged, documenting each doll’s carver, Hopi name, and its meaning.

As the need for additional living space became evident, Jini was determined not to expand the main house, but instead to construct a guest house that would blend with the main house using the same materials. Fortunately, George Christensen was still active and teaching at ASU. Jini reached out to him, and together they walked the property where Christensen shared stories about the home’s construction, including hiring the craftsmen for the corbels and ironwork, and even telling of how he transported the arched window from Mexico City. Christensen was thrilled to design and build the guest house, ensuring the continuity in architectural style and craftsmanship and Jini entrusted him with choosing the location for the guest house.

Because of the unique history and personal connection to George Christensen, the Simpson home is both a cherished project and a significant responsibility. Jini is committed to preserving the home’s architectural integrity. Throughout the years, the home has welcomed many fascinating guests and has been the site of numerous political and charitable events. It has served as a wonderful home for Jini for over thirty-five years.

As chair of the Town’s Historical Advisory Committee, I would like to recommend the Simpson home located at 6022 North 51st Place to the Town Council for recognition in our Historic Property Program.

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