#### ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

<u>CASE NUMBER</u>: C14H-2008-0016 <u>HLC DATE</u>: June 23, 2008 PC DATE: July 22, 2008

APPLICANT: Jane Dunn Sibley, owner

HISTORIC NAME: Davis-Sibley House

WATERSHED: Shoal Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 2210 Windsor Road

ZONING FROM: SF-3 to SF-3-H

<u>SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION</u>: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from single family residence (SF-3) district to single family residence – Historic Landmark (SF-3-H) combining district zoning.

<u>HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION</u>: Recommended the proposed zoning change from single family residence (SF·3) district to single family residence – Historic Landmark (SF·3·H) combining district zoning. Vote: 5·0 (Arriaga, Leary, and Rosato absent).

#### PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

<u>DEPARTMENT COMMENTS</u>: The house is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) as a priority 2 for research.

CITY COUNCIL DATE: July 24, 2008 ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Old Enfield Neighborhood Association

#### **BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

The ca. 1932 house was designed by noted Dallas architect Hal Thomson and represents an excellent example of grand scale Spanish Colonial Revival residential design, and is associated with the families of Nelson and Emma Davis, the proprietors of one of the city's largest wholesale grocery businesses and noted philanthropists, and D.J. and Jane Dunn Sibley, leaders of the Austin Symphony, and the development and preservation of Symphony Square.

#### Architecture:

Two story irregular L-plan stucco house with a refined Spanish Colonial Revival design. The house has an arched loggia across the front, front gables facing the street, and a central square campanile styled tower with arched loggia. The house has a Spanish clay tile roof, wood-framed casement windows, and decorated

Mexican tile on the exterior stairs, walkway, and retaining wall separating the house from the pool. The house also features decorative ironwork crafted by local artisan Fortunat Weigl.

#### **Historical Associations**:

The ca. 1932 house was designed by prominent Dallas architect Hal Thomson for Emma Davis, the widow of local wholesale grocer Nelson Davis. Hal Thomson (1882-1974) was born in Austin, graduated from the University of Texas and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and after traveling through Europe studying historic architecture, established an architectural practice in Dallas. Thomson designed many large houses in Dallas and other cities in Texas; his commissions in Austin, however, were relatively limited. Thomson was known for his interpretations of the prevailing revival styles on a grand scale, designing large houses in Spanish Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Neoclassical, and other styles.

At the time the house was built in 1932, Emma Davis (1875-1954) had been widowed for 9 years. According to the 1910 U.S. Census. Emma Levison Davis had been born in Texas to German-born parents; she was then 35 years old, and her husband, Nelson Davis, was 50. Nelson Davis had started in the grocery business in Galveston, and upon moving to Austin in 1884, established Nelson Davis & Son. a wholesale grocery business on W. 4th Street on the railroad tracks (the building is now the Spaghetti Warehouse and a designated city historic landmark). Nelson and Emma Davis were married around 1897 and lived in a house on W. 10th Street until his death in 1923. During their marriage, both Nelson and Emma were actively engaged in various philanthropic activities; Emma Davis was one of the founders of the Settlement Club, an organization based upon the principles of the works of Jane Addams to help underprivileged families. She and Nelson adopted their only child. Theodore, who took over the family wholesale business after Nelson's death. Theodore was educated at Yale and brought new commercial principles to the family business. Theodore also revitalized the Austin Country Club and was a founder of Capital National Bank. After his mother's death in 1954, he and his wife Nita moved into the house on Windsor Road and lived there until 1962, when they sold it D.J. and Jane Dunn Sibley. Nita Davis was also active in the Settlement Club, serving as president in the 1920s, and the Austin Country Club.

D.J. and Jane Sibley purchased the house in 1962, moving to Austin from West Texas. D.J. Sibley, Jr. (1913-2005) was a physician in Fort Stockton, Texas who was also very interested in ecology, range management, and plant biology. He established the D.J. Sibley Centennial Professorship in Plant Molecular Genetics at the University of Texas at Austin in 1982, and was also very active in the Austin Symphony and other philanthropic and ecology-related projects. Jane Dunn Sibley, who currently owns the house, has been very active with the Austin Symphony and the development of Symphony Square.

PARCEL NO.: 01130107030000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot 8 and the north 20 feet of Lot 7, Enfield "D"

ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$18,523 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$3,253 (50% of the city taxes).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$1,468,873

PRESENT USE: Single-family residence.

**CONDITION**: Excellent

#### PRESENT OWNER:

Jane Dunn Sibley 2210 Windsor Road Austin, Texas 78703

DATE BUILT: ca. 1932

<u>ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS</u>: South wing extended (1976); materials and style match the original part of the house.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Mrs. Emma Davis (1932)

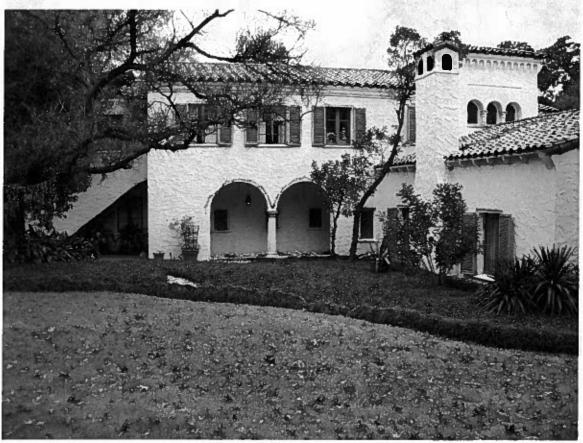
OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: The house is contributing to the Old West Austin National Register Historic District.



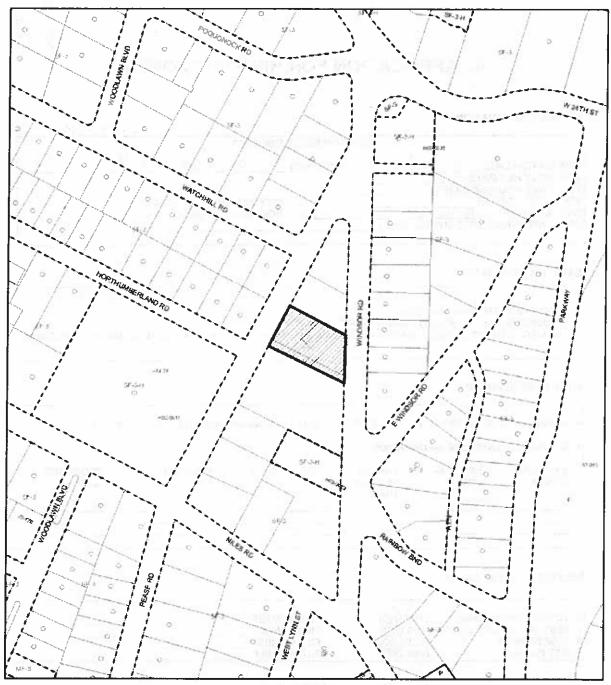
The Davis-Sibley House ca. 1932 2210 Windsor Road



View showing the tiled stairs and retaining wall at the front pool



View of the rear of the house



SUBJECT TRACT ZONING BOUNDARY PENDING CASE

HISTORIC ZONING

ZONING CASE# C14H-2008-0016 ADDRESS 2210 WINDSOR RD SUBJECT AREA 0.578 ACRES
GRID H24
MANAGER S. SADOWSKY

OPERATOR: S. MEEKS
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## A. APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC ZONING

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Revised June 30, 2002

#### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (SUBDIVISION REFERENCE OR METES AND BOUNDS):

10a. SUBDIVISION REFERENCE: Nam	19:		Dan Je	
LOT 8 & N 20 FT OF LOT				
Block(s)	Lot(s)		Outlot(s)	
Block(s) Vol #3	Page Number	r 158		
10b. METES AND BOUNDS (Attach two zoning includes partial lots)	copies of certified	field notes if subdiv	rision reference is n	ot aveitable or
DEED REFERENCE CONVEYING PROPI	ERTY TO PRESEN	IT OWNER AND T	AX PARCEL I.D.:	ши америя
11. VOLUME: #2415	PAGE:	#491TAX P	ARCEL I.D. NO. 11.	2649
OTHER PROVISIONS:	N. T.			
12. IS PROPERTY IN A ZONING COMBIL TYPE OF COMBINING DIST/OVE 13. LOCATED IN A LOCAL OR NATION/ 14. IS A TIA REQUIRED? YES / NO (A TRIPS PER DAY: TRAFFIC SERIAL ZONE(S):	ERLAY ZONE (NCC AL REGISTER HIS	CD,NP, etc) ()LD TORIC DISTRICT:	WEST AUSTIN YES - OWAHD	
OWNERSHIP TYPE:				
If ownership is other than sole or communi	ity property, list indi	lviduals/partners/pr	incipals below or at	ach separate sheet.
OWNER INFORMATION:				
16. OWNER CONTACT NFORMATION SIGNATURE: AG 6 DOGG TELEPHONE NUMBER: 413-2526 STREET ADDRESS: 2210 WINDSOR RO. CITY: AUSTIN STATE: TEXAS EMAIL ADDRESS: NONE (use contact's conta	AD ZIP CODE: 7		DUNN SIBLEY	
AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)				
17. AGENT CONTACT METORMATION SIGNATURE: TELEPHONE NUMBER: 512-444-1326 STREET ADDRESS: 2510 CEDARVIEW D CITY: AUSTIN STATE: TEXAS CONTACT PERSON: PHOEBE ALLEN EMAIL ADRESS: phoebezink@sol.com	DRIVE ZIP CODE:			le
DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY:				
Revised June 30, 2002				;

## C. SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

#### SUBMITTAL VERICATION

My signature attests to the fact that the attached application package is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that proper City staff review of this application is dependent upon the accuracy of the information provided and that any inaccurate or inadequate information provided by me/my firm/etc., may delay the proper review of this application.

	PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BEI	
	· ·	PLICABLE.
	Jane Dun inly	3/7/08
	Signature	voane
	JANE DUNN SIBLEY	
	Name (Typed or Printed)	
	Firm (If applicable)	
IN IN	SPECTION AUTHORIZATION	
As owner or authorized agent, my signal application is being submitted.	ature authorizes staff to visit and inspect th	e property for which this
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	- Jane Duan lialen	5/4/08
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	JANE DUNN SIBLEY	
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#### **E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM**

# concerning Subdivision Plat Notes, Deed Restrictions, Restrictive Covenants and / or Zoning Conditional Overlays

I, JANE DUNN SIBLEY have checked for subdiv	rision plat notes, deed restrictions,
restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays prohidevelopment restrictions i.e. height, access, screening etc. on this	
2210 Windsor Road, Austin, Texas (Addrase or Legal Description)	
If a conflict should result with the request I am submitting to the deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional it. I also acknowledge that I understand the implications of us result of a subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive cov	overlays it will be my responsibility to resolve se and/or development restrictions that are a
I understand that if requested, I must provide copies of any an restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlay information	
(Applicant's signature)	
(Applicant's signature)	(Date)

#### NO 1036180

## TAX CERTIFICATE Nelda Wells Spears Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector P.O. Box 1748 Austin, Texas 78767 (512) 854-9473

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 01-1301-0703-0000 PROPERTY OWNER: PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: LOT 8 \*& N 20 FT OF LOT 7 ENFIRED SIBLEY JANE DUNN 2210 WINDSOR RD AUSTIN, TX 78703-3115 0.000 MIN% .00000 TYPE ACRES SITUS INFORMATION: 2210 WINDSOR This is to certify that after a careful check of tax records of this office, the following taxes, delinquent taxes, penalties and interests are due on the described property of the following tax unit(s): YEAR ENTITY
2007 AUSTIN ISD
CITY OF AUSTIN (TRAV)
TRAVIS COUNTY
TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
ACC (TRAVIS) TOTAL \*ALL PAID\*
\*ALL PAID\*
\*ALL PAID\*
\*ALL PAID\*
\*ALL PAID\* TOTAL SEQUENCE \*ALL PAID\* \*ALL PAID\* UNPAID FEES: INTEREST ON FEES: COMMISSION: \* NONE \*
\* NONE \* TOTAL DUE ==> TAXES PAID FOR YEAR 2007 \$18,017.35 ALL TAXES PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2007 EXCEPT FOR UNPAID YEARS LISTED ABOVE.
The above described property may be subject to special valuation based on its use, and additional follback taxes may become due. (Section 23.55, State Property Tax Code).
Pursuant to Section 31.08 of the State Property Tax Code, there is a fee of \$10.00 for all Tax Certificates. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE ON THIS DATE OF 04/14/2008 Nelda Wells Spears Tax Assessor-Collector Pee Paid: \$10.00

## **HISTORIC ZONING (HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION)**

#### **DAVIS-SIBLEY HOUSE**

2210 Windsor Road

Austin, Texas 78703

Prepared for

Jane Dunn Sibley, Owner

April 2008

B

Phoebe Allen 2510 Cedarview Drive Austin, Texas 78704 512-444-1326 phoebezink@aol.com

## CITY OF AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT

## F. 1: Historical Documentation - Deed Chronology

#### Deed Research for DAVIS-SIBLEY HOUSE at 2210 Windsor Road, Austin, Texas Lot 8 & N 20 Ft. of Lot 7 Enfield D, Plat Vol. 3, page 158

Transaction	Vol./Page
1836, June 20	Ira Lewis, Genl. Commr. for State of Coabula & Texas to Thomas J. Chambers/State of Texas, Book C, pages 419-422. A grant of 8 leagues of land in Travis County, Texas
1841, March 31	Patent: Mirabeau Lamar, President, Republic of Texas to George W. Spear, one league or 25,000,000 sq. vs. of land
	Spier to Norman Woods (Bond)
	Wooda to N. McArthur
	McArthur to Lamar, Joseph Moreland & Thomas G. Gordon
1840, Nov.	Deed of Partition: Mirabeau B. Lamar & Thomas G. Gordon to Joseph Moreland, \$600, George Spear league, 182 acres
1853, Nov. 26	Joseph Moreland to James B. Shaw, Controller, Republic of Texas, Book F, pages 391-392. \$728 for 182 acres
1854, May 15	T.J. Chambers/State of Texas to James Shaw for \$500, 50 acres
1859, July 25	James B. Shaw to E. M. Pease, \$14,000 for tract of land in Spear Tract,
Š	186 acres with buildings and improvements
1928, March 21	Pease heirs to Helen Hood Graham & W.M. Graham, Book 418/page 16
1928, June 12	Westenfield Development Co., W. Murray Graham, president, to Ralph Goeth & wife, Book 416, page 455. \$20,000
1930, July 23	Melita F. & Ralph C. Goeth to Emma Davis, Vol. 455/page 275. \$10,200
1962, Feb. 16	Anita E. & Theodore P. Davis to Jane Dunn & D. Jacobi Sibley Jr. \$75,000. Vol. 2415 page 491

## F. 2: Historical Documentation - Occupancy History

#### Occupancy Research for DAVIS-SIBLEY HOUSE at 2210 Windsor Road, Austin, Texas

Using City Directories available at the Austin History Center or other information available, please provide a chronology of all occupants of the property from its construction to the present. For commercial property, please provide residential information on business owner as well.

Year	Occupant Name and Reference	Source: City Directories
1930-1954 1930-31	Emma Davis  Emma Davis (wid Nelson) Nelson Davis & Son, h19 Enfield  (no listing for 2210 Windsor)  Emma Davis, r Windsor Rd.	Rd.
1935 1937-'52	Emma Davis & Theo, τ 2212 Windsor Rd. Emma Davis & Theo, τ 2210 Windsor Rd.	
1954-1962 1953 & 54 1955-61	Anita & Theo Davis Theo & Nita Davis, r 1600 Northumberland Theo & Nita Davis, r 2210 Windsor Rd.	
1962-present 1962 1963	Jane & D.J. Sibley Vacant; Theo & Nita Davis, r 1600 Northumberland D.J. & Jane Sibley	

#### DAVIS-SIBLEY HOUSE 2210 Windsor Road Lot 8 & N 20 feet of Lot 7 Enfield D

#### SUMMARY

The Davis-Sibley House is an excellent example of the extraordinary architectural skill of an Austin native, embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Spanish Revival style. Arguably the prime example of this style within the city of Austin, the house is a contributing property of the National Register's Old West Austin Historic District (OWAHD).

Designed by well-known architect Hal Thomson, the house is also identified with individuals in both the Davis and Sibley families who have made significant contributions to the economic and social development of the Austin community. Its builder, Emma Davis, was the widow of Nelson Davis and a founding member of the Settlement Club. Her son Theo of the Nelson Davis Company, owned the home after his mother's death. He was a director of the Chamber of Commerce and a founder and director of the Capital National Bank. Its owners since 1962, Jane and D.J. Sibley, have both made significant cultural and philanthropic contributions to the heritage of Austin and Texas, notably to the Austin Symphony, the Texas Rock Art Society, Fort Stockton Historical Society, and botanical research at the University of Texas at Austin.

With the exception of the enlarged south wing, which was carefully designed to be in harmony with Thomson's original plans, the home has an unusually high degree of historic integrity in both the interior décor and the exterior architecture. The Sibleys purchased from Theo Davis a number of furnishings originally designed for the house and which remain in use in the home. They have left undisturbed key architectural and decorative elements of the home's interior as well as its exterior façades.

According to architectural historian Peter Maxson, "The Davis-Sibley villa is one of the best examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in Austin, if not Central Texas. It is larger than most Austin examples of the style, but it also demonstrates a good understanding of the work of the contemporaneous masters of the style, George Washington Smith in Santa Barbara, California; Addison Mizner of Palm Beach, Florida; and the better work of Attlee Ayres of San Antonio. With its irregular and picturesque massing, and its excellent detailing, the siting and landscaping, the Davis House has arguably been an Austin landmark since its completion."

The Davis-Sibley House is clearly deserving of Historic Landmark status by both the City of Austin and State of Texas.

#### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In 1931 architect Hal Thomson, a native of Austin, designed the Spanish Revival home at 2210 Windsor Road for Emma Davis. A founding member of Austin's Settlement Club, Emma Levison Davis was the widow of Nelson Davis (1858-1923), a pioneer Austin grocer who established the Nelson Davis Company in Austin in 1884. Theo Davis, their only son, continued his father's business as Nelson Davis & Son and was a founding director of Capital National Bank. Theo inherited the house from his mother in 1954 and lived there with his wife Nita until 1962, when Jane and D. J. Sibley purchased the house.

Built with textured, stucco-finished exterior walls and a Spanish clay tile roof, the home portrays many of the architectural elements and overall design that characterize the Spanish Revival style.

The main entrance of the Davis-Sibley House faces Windsor Road; the front retaining wall is original, made of hollow tile and plaster. A rear drive is located on Pease Road; two wrought-iron Weigl arches define this semi-circular driveway's entry and exit. The property originally had a steep incline, between Pease Road and Windsor Road, being part of the embankment of Shoal Creek below. Seeps flow following rains; area homes with basements have drains and sump pumps as a result.

#### History of the Land1

The Old West Austin Historic District is comprised of three major suburbs, Enfield, Pemberton Heights, and Bryker Woods – all originally part of the George W. Spear League that surrounded the Pease family's home, a National Register property located on the north side of Pease Road, catty-corner from the Davis-Sibley home's rear entry. The area developed as Enfield was the east pasture of the Pease estate and enveloped Woodlawn.

In early 1838, the Fayette County Board of Land Commissioners issued a head right certificate for one league of land to George W. Spear, who had emigrated to Texas with his family in 1835; Spear died in 1839 The Spear Survey, 25 labors west and north of the city's central business district, was sold to C.S. Parish in 1841. Parish sold the land to George M. Martin for \$100 cash in 1846, and it was resold seven months later for \$150 to James B. Shaw, State Comptroller under Governor Pease.

In 1853 Shaw hired master builder Abner Cook to build the Greek Revival style home known as Woodlawn, which he sold to Governor Elisha Marshall Pease (1812-1883) and his wife Lucadia Niles Pease (1813-1905) for \$15,000 in 1859.

Governor Pease was instrumental in establishing public education and persuaded the legislature to appropriate land for the Austin State Hospital, the Texas School for the Deaf, and the Texas School for the Blind. He also supervised the completion of the Governor's Mansion; the Pease family was the first to live there.

#### History of the Pease Estate

After their move to Woodlawn, the Pease home became a social and cultural center. Their eldest daughter Carrie Augusta Pease married George Graham (1847-1897) there in 1875; the young couple lived with the Peases for a few years and introduced grandchildren to the gardens. When Carrie died in childbirth in 1882 (their youngest daughter Anne had died in 1862), Lucadia, together with her daughter Julia Pease (1853-1918), raised Carrie's three children, including the newborn, at Woodlawn. Julia, a Vassar-educated woman interested in the arts and philanthropy, took over the family estate after her father died in 1883.

The three children - Marshall Pease Graham (1875-1910), Richard Niles Graham (1881-1959) and Carrie Margaret Graham (1882-1961) - had two grandfathers who were prominent in early Texas history. Their paternal grandfather, physician Beriah Graham (1804-1879), moved from North Carolina to Texas in 1846. Governor Sam Houston appointed Beriah as superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum (later Austin State Hospital) in 1859, and Governor Edmund Davis appointed him as State Treasurer in 1872.<sup>2</sup>

The Pease estate, which extended from 12th to 24th Streets and from Shoal Creek on the east to the Colorado River on the west, remained in the family until 1916 when the heirs of the

5/7/08

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Graham and Pease family files, and Enfiled Realty Company file, Austin History Center.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Greek Revival Beriah Graham House survives on 26th and Salado Streets in Austin

Clearing and design layout for Enfield A was begun in 1915, with Kuchne<sup>3</sup> serving as the landscape architect. Enfield Road bisected the addition, which began just west of Shoal Creek and ended just west of Lorrain Street, with Windsor Road and Parkway at the north edge, and 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets as the south boundary.

Enfield took its name from Enfield, Connecticut, the birthplace and home of Governor Pease<sup>4</sup> before his move to Texas, and its streets were named for Connecticut towns: Windsor, where his wife was born, Hartford, the state's capital; Poquonock, where Lucadia's family lived, and others. Niles Road was named in honor of Lucadia Niles Pease; Lorrain Street took its name from Governor Pease's father, Lorrain Thompson Pease. Other streets named for family members include Marshall, Murray and Pease.

#### **Land Owners**

In 1928 the Westenfield Development Company sold the land at 2210 Windsor for \$20,000 to Melita Faust & Ralph C. Goeth. Ralph Goeth (1891-1967) held a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and became president and general manager of Tips Engine Works in 1928. Ralph and Anita Laura (Mrs. Niles) Graham were children of Adolph Goeth—president of Walter Tips Hardware and Tips Engine Works from 1911 until his death in 1927; he had been an associate with the company since 1884. Ralph and Anita Laura's mother, Julia Tips Goeth, was the daughter of Walter Tips and a close friend of sculptress Elizabet Ney. Mrs. Goeth was also a founder of the Texas Fine Arts Association (1929), and very active in promoting a clean water supply, garbage collection and disposal, and cleanliness in local dairies.

The Goeths sold their property to Emma Davis for \$10,200 in July of 1930 – a huge loss due to the Crash of 1929. Emma's son and his wife sold the house and property to the Sibleys in February of 1962. Thus, only two families have owned the house.

#### The Davis Family Home (1930-1962)

In 1930, seven years after the death of her husband, Emma engaged Hal Thomson of Dallas to build "an important home" in the new Enfield D Development. When the downstairs bedroom was enlarged, original plans drawn for Mrs. Davis were found in the south wall of the library and are in the possession of the present owner. Thomson designed the home in the Spanish Revival style, and worked with Pierre Dutell, a New York decorator, to continue the theme in the interior, closely harmonizing the interior décor with the exterior architectural style.

Dutell traveled to Spain to collect furnishings for the home, and in Majorca had rugs custom woven to size and his design for the dining room and living room. The original dining room furniture, still in use, was designed in the Spanish Baroque manner and distressed to appear antique. Dutell designed the extant living room valences that were carved in Spain. He personally painted the ceiling and heavy vigas of the living room, and hand rubbed the paint for an aged look.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Kuehne left the University and established his private practice the same year he began work on Enfield.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Enfield, Connecticut, was first settled by Pease's direct ancestors on the banks of the Connecticut River. Windsor Road was given its name by Governor Pease when he made his home at Woodlawn.

One of master craftsman Fortunat Weigl's significant commissions during the 1930s was that for the Davis home: lanterns, gates, grills, balconies, stair rails, twin standing candelabras, decorative trees, and fireplace sets, all still in place.

#### **Architectural Description**

Architect Hal Thomson, who designed this home for Emma Davis in the Spanish Revival style, envisioned this location "in the round" in the sense that the back was designed as carefully as the front. First manifested in the 1930s, Spanish Revival was initially promoted by Arthur Byne, architect and architectural historian specializing in Spanish art and architecture.

The Davis-Sibley House features numerous Weigl ironworks, including the wrought iron sign indicating the home's address. Jane Sibley designed the ironwork of the front gate, which was forged by Perry Cann, who acquired many of Weigl's original tools. The railings along the steps to Windsor Road were also designed by Sibley, based on Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and forged by Pohowsky of Salado, Texas. Two wrought iron tamps on either side of the gate were added by the Sibleys.

Surrounded by a low wall, the residence displays a handsome forecourt garden and fountain, designed in 1963 by C. Coatsworth Pinkney<sup>6</sup> for the Sibleys. A four-arch loggia terrace on the ground floor of the home frames the garden. Corinthian capitals sit atop the masonry columns that support the four "basket handle" elliptical arches. The loggia offers a lovely setting for family breakfasts and for dinner parties. The wood ceiling of the loggia retains its original blue paint.

The tile roof has been redone twice, with careful removal of the tiles, repair to the roof underneath, and a return of the original tiles; broken tiles were replaced by tile from the second level so that visible repairs remain unnoticed.

The main door is built of hand-pegged and hand-carved solid oak wood with a forged iron grill protecting a small "peep hole" window. It features a conch motif sculptured in plaster above the doorway, which is framed by a rope design, all in plaster. Both the front and rear wooden doors are hand pegged, as are all the doors in the house with the exception of the kitchen door.

The Sibleys brought the home up to date with central heating and air conditioning, a sprinkler system and French drain, widened the rear driveway and leveled the front slope for a swimming pool. The loggia terrace overlooks the garden and pool. The pool's edge is trimmed in Mexican Talavera tile, and the steps inside the pool were inspired by a stone water tank in Majorca. The pool design received a special award and appeared in an Austin Homes magazine. The Sibleys added the Mexican fountain in a location that appeared to have been considered in the original plan for the front garden, with water flowing from a recycling pump. Planungs typical of the Spanish Revival style, such as hibiscus, bougainvillea and roses, are evident today.

In 1962, the Sibleys enlarged the south wing with a master bedroom, in order to accommodate their family of five, in keeping with the original style. Perry Cann forged this

<sup>6</sup> Pinkney's plans are on file at the Austin History Center.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Byne is credited with the style's widespread distribution in the U.S., principally in the states of Florida, Texas and California. Byne, along with his wife, Mildred Stapley, authored many books relating to Spanish architecture, Spanish Moorish ceilings, Spanish gardens and Spanish furniture. The current U.S. Embassy cultural annex in Madrid, Spain, is based at the former Arthur Byne residence in Spain.

balcony's ironwork, a close copy of Weigl. The far left front niche on the addition holds a San Miguel sculpture.

There is a two-car garage and a guesthouse used for visiting family and musicians. The home was featured on an art tour for Laguna Gloria Art Museum in 1964. In 1997, the home was featured in a national "Home Garden" TV show.

#### Interior Features

The high ceiling of the living room is supported by hand-hewn heavy timber trusses characteristic of a simplified Moxrish "Mudejar" structural roofing system. It leads into a vestibule which functions as a hub, connecting the dining mom, living room, back entry, and the grand stairway leading to upper level bedrooms. One wall of the vestibule includes a niche for the display of religious statues or artwork; currently it features an Umlauf madonna. The floor of this entry hall is of tile made in Fort Worth. The light fixture in the entry was added by the Sibleys. No two rooms in the house have the same ceiling height.

The 'sala' or living room, generous but cozy and well proportioned, includes a carved Texas shellstone fireplace surround; there is no mantel. The andirons, screen and tools are by Weigl. Opposite are slender vertical windows with wood doors that open to the loggia terrace and overlook the front garden. The painted wooden valances over all windows in the sala are original and untouched. New York decorator Pierre Dutell is said to have painted the valances and stained the ceiling timbers himself, and they remain in their original condition. The Spanish style sofa is original.

In the library, the Sibleys added ceiling lights, extended the shelving, and closed off a doorway on the east wall, where there existed a small hallway to a guest room. While removing a wall for the extension, the Sibleys found the original plans of the house inside the wall. Perry Cann created the Toledo-style fireplace tongs in the library. The sitting room is part of the mid-70s extension. The Sibley's tried to duplicate the home's original, hand-pegged plank floor in this area. In the extension – which serves as the master bedroom-sitting room, and bath with a large walk-in closet – is a selosia from the Sibleys' Fort Stockton home. A ceramic Chinese water vessel is featured in this area.

The dining room includes a large plate glass window at one end with original, carved wooden interior doors, and windows on two walls. There are no corners, no right angles in the dining room walls; i.e. all joins in the walls and ceiling are curved – perhaps due to an old superstition about ghosts staying in corners. The table and chairs in the dining room are original pieces made in Majorea for this room. The chandelier was added by the Sibleys and is circa 1870s Baccarat Bristol blue glass, with matching candelabra and candy dishes. Originally purchased by the Ambassador from Persia to France for his home in Persia, the Sibleys purchased the set from Betty Ales, who had inherited it frum her grandmother.

All windows have wood frames and consist of paired lights. The butler's pantry, or "anticocina" offers storage for china, crystal and silver as well as a sink the Sibleys trimmed in tile. The kitchen consists of a stove with gas burners set into a "Talavera" ceramic tiled masonry base. Cabinets are original, but appliances have been changed and their placement altered. Flooring in the kitchen is original pine; the Sibleys removed linoleum from this floor. The original kitchen entry had a tiny room where deliveries were made...milk, groceries, dry cleaning; this space is now incorporated into a bar area. A door on the west side of the room enters a bath and maid's room, which has its own outside door.

Flooring throughout the house is original and of either red, fired Saltillo clay tiles or wide, hand pegged oak planks.

The open stairway leading to the second floor is built of solid oak risers and treads, with a Weigl-forged iron stair rail. An interior balcony at the top of the stairs views the vestibule below and leads to the bedrooms. Along with the balcony railings and grills on the dining room windows, all of the hardware for the doors and windows was hand forged by Weigl Ironworks. A stairwell also leads upstairs from the rear drive. There are bedrooms and an office upstairs. One upstairs bedroom has a coffered ceiling, which is unusual in a second story bedroom. There were originally six arched windows, with leaded glass – which had been removed by a previous owner. The Sibleys replaced these windows using the original plans.

Near the rear entry is a powder room with Weigl ironwork, coffered ceiling, and original French Toile D' Joie fabric wall covering. The rear entry door on the ground level matches the front door and opens onto a cloistered hall with two arches and one stone Doric pillar. The rear garden has a wishing well that reflects the Moorish influence. The shutters are all original.

The home was originally heated via a boiler system in the basement. Windows were placed with cross ventilation and breezes in mind. The basement is not the full size of the house, but under the kitchen and dining areas only. A small basement was added in the Sixties under the addition for its heating unit and water heaters.

#### Architect Henry Bowers (Hal) Thomson (1882-1974)

Austin native Hal Thomson designed the Davis-Sibley House. His pioneer grandfather, Alexander Thomson, came to Texas with Stephen F. Austin. Hal was born in 1882 to a prominent Hill Country ranching family and received an elite early education at private and preparatory schools. After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas, he received a master's degree in architecture from Boston's Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1906. His extensive travels after graduation, studying Europe's classical and historic architecture, developed his strong historical style.

Thomson established his architectural practice in Dallas under his own name in 1908, and later as Thomson and Swaine. His social connections were enhanced in 1914 when he married Geils Adoue, daughter of prominent Dallas banker J. B. Adoue. They had two daughters. Thomson was a founding member of Brook Hollow Golf Club and a past president of the Idlewild Club.

Thomson was one of the great mansion-builders in Texas in the period between the two world wars, and designed many in Dallas and elsewhere in the State. The AIA guide Austin and its Architecture notes:

"Woodlawn set the tone for the area's (Pemberton Heights) architecture. Greek Revival was very acceptable, as was Georgian Revival with its red brick and white columns. Dallas architect Henry Bowers Thomson provided very subtle residential versions of Beaux-Arts classicism such as the Drake-Butler House<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Architectural comments are based on descriptions by architect Logan Wagner and owner Jane Sibley, 2007-08; "Interview with Mrs. Jane Sibley," April 10, 1990, by Jennifer Froman, provided by Sibley. "Sibley Home on Laguna Art Tour," American Sttesman, March 19, 1964 with photo of Davis home.

According to architectural historian Peter Maxson, the AIA Guide is incorrect: "Hal Thomson did not design the Drake-Butler House. Wm. Drake was president of Calcasieu Lumber Co.,

(1930) and the Reed-Cocke House (1929), though Thomson could also work in the less formal Mediterranean villa style, as on the Davis-Sibley House (1932)."

Hal was an eclectic master of many styles, including Tudor, Georgian, Neoclassical, Italianate, French and Spanish. His best works, primarily house mansions, date from the Teens and Twenties.

In Dallas Thomson designed the Southwestern Life Building, his own home at 3925 Potomac, and far more elaborate and grander homes on Swiss Avenue and in Highland Park. Many consider the George Aldredge House, a French Eclectic style home with Renaissance detailing, the high mark of his eclectic architecture. Thomson and Swain designed institutional and commercial buildings in Dallas, including the Dallas Aquarium (a collaboration with Fooshee & Cheek and Flint & Broad), the Cotton Exchange Building, a 22-story addition to the Adolphus Hotel, and the Maple Terrace Apartment House, as well as numerous homes throughout Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Corsicana, and Terrell, Texas.

Thomson was the president of the Dallas Society of Architects for a time and mentored many of the leading architects in Dallas, such as Mark Lemmon, Wilson McClure, and both Fooshee & Cheek. Though Thomson is most well known for his work in Dallas, the Davis-Sibley House and two "sister-ship" mansions he designed in Austin for Malcolm Reed and Edgar Perry are significant for their style and design. Both the Reed and Perry Estates are historic landmarks. Thomson retired from architecture in 1944.

#### Fortunat Weigl (1884-1973) & Weigi Iron Works

Fortunat Weigl, an early apprentice of Peter Mansbendel, completed much of the finish work in the Enfield Addition. According to Fortunat's grandson Fritz Weigl, "My father, Herbert Weigl, considered the Davis home some of the Weigls' more memorable work." Furthermore, "Significant commissions during the 1930s included work for...the Davis home at 2210 Windsor (lanterns, gates, grills, balconies, stair rails, candelabra, decorative trees, and fireplace sets)."

John Fox, in a 1978 student paper, "The Weigls: Art Craftsmen in Iron," writes: "Another H.B. Thompson-designed home featuring iron ornamentation by the Weigls is the Theo Davis home, at 2210 Windsor, built 1932. The ironwork includes a pair of bold portal arches with lanterns, a pair of pedestrian gates, structural tie bars with scrolls in the front entry porch, two inset door grills, balconies, a stair rail, window grills, the address logo, twin freestanding candelabras, two very organic giant grape leaf motif flowerpot trees, andirons, fireplace screen and fireplace tools."

Born March 21, 1884, in Bavaria, Fortunat Weigl worked for a master ironmonger there in his youth. He immigrated to Texas with his wife and sons, Lee and Herbert, in 1913. Fortunat spent his first years working at odd jobs for German-speaking tradesmen before turning to iron crafting. Among other jobs, he worked for more than a year as a woodcarver for Peter

which had its own stable of building designers. His house was to be a showcase of their talents, albeit in a Thomsonian vocabulary."

<sup>9</sup> Austin: Its Architects and Architecture (1836-1986) Austin Chapter AIA, 1986.

Perry Estate/St. Mary's Academy Historic District, 701 East 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Austin. National Register Property, 2001, prepared by Laura Knott. Texas Historical Commission.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Fox notes, "Regarding this job, Herb Weigl says they only did about half the ironwork and that he would have to look at it to determine what portion, but they definitely did the fireplace screen, tools and andirons as well as at least one of the portal archways."

Mansbendel, who gave him his first local job as an iron craftsman. In 1917, when Weigl had been in Austin about four years, the woodcarver hired him to make four wrought-iron light fixtures that Mansbendel had designed. Mansbendel equipped Weigl with a forge, an anvil, a hammer, a vise, some raw iron, and a sack of coal, for which he received the four light fixtures and \$3 a week in cash until the debt was settled.

Weigl's work can be seen in many Austin buildings, including the Austin Public Library, the French Legation, the Elisabet Ney Museum, Mayor Roy Butler's home, the Capitol, the Dobic Room in the University of Texas Academic Center, Woodlawn, the Gary Morrison home, the Bremond Block, the cemetery at the LBJ Ranch, and most of the important historic buildings in Austin. After Fortunat's death in 1973, Lee and Herbert continued to run the family iron business until their retirement in 1977. During their years they fashioned pieces for the celebrities of their cra—icons such as Jack Benny, Lucille Ball and Bob Hope.

Identifying Weigl Ironworks

According to Fritz Weigl, grandson of Fortunat, techniques requiring added work and skill are characteristic of the southern German iron-working tradition passed down through the Weigl family. A rose, for example, would be hammered and chiseled from a single piece of iron. The petals were not cut and hammered separately and then welded to the stem as might normally be done, thus each petal bears an imprint of the one beneath it on its underside. The Weigls considered making a one-piece rose the epitome of forging skill, requiring about 10 hours of work per rose. One of the hallmarks of Weigl iron work can be seen at the end of the cut stem of a rose; the Weigls forged a small curl of bark at the end of the stem as if the stem had been tom off and often chiseled a small circle or loop to replicate the boundary between the bark layer and the core wood of the stem.

On their better work the Weigls often used features characteristic of South German iron working technique such as banding of scrolls to each other or the frame where they touch, and even threading of one part of a scroll through another part rather than welding them together. Scrolls are finished with tight ends or balls on their tips; the balls must be added when the scroll tip is heated at the forge, an extra, time-consuming step not followed by many suppliers. Nearly every scroll tip had some kind of hand-forged end, which usually appears as a ball, but sometimes as a flattened and curved blade, a fiddle head, or even a dragon or animal head. This is the easiest identifier for Weigl ironwork. In his early work, Fortunat sometimes chiseled tiny faces in the rivet heads as a humorous touch. (The Davis firescreen has faces in its rivet heads.) Having forge work done on the scroll tips does not ensure that it is Weigl work, but absence of such forge work is a very strong indication that it is not.<sup>12</sup>

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA for Owners & Related Individuals**

#### THE DAVIS FAMILY

Emma Levison Davis (-1954) was a founding member of the Settlement Club and entertained the volunteers and children from the home on many occasions. Her husband had

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Fritz Weigl of Dallas, son of Herbert Weigl and grandson of Fortunat Weigl, via email: "This information is a compilation of information from various sources including magazine articles written about the iron works when my father and uncle were still living (with input from them), tapes my father recorded, etc."

given generous gifts to the Club. Emma and Nelson had one adopted son, Theo Davis. Emma entertained often in her new home. According to Jane Sibley, Marie Hirshfield Hannah (now deceased) remarked that "Aunt Emma" played bridge and drank martinis in the afternoon, and may have smoked cigarettes.

Emma Davis died at her home in 1954 and was buried in the Davis Mausoleum in Eastwood cometery in Austin. The Davis home passed to Theo and his second wife, Nita. One of the upstairs bedrooms was modernized according to the design of the dean of architecture at U.T.

Theodore Phillipson Davis (1892-1974) was an adopted son. He was born in Austin, attended the Whitis School, and graduated from Yale after three years in 1913, when he returned to join his father's business, Nelson Davis & Son. Considered an intellectual, but with a great humor and intense interest in all sports, his family indulged him and even gave him two automobiles at one time. After Yale, be tried to join the army but was underweight; he enlisted as a private in the aviation section of the signal corps and entered officers' training school at Kelly Field, San Antonio. There he advanced to first lieutenant and was sent overseas to fly in France and England during WWI. He retired as a Captain in the air service and rejoined his father in the wholesale grocery business in 1923.

Theo revitalized the Austin Country Club as its president following the Depression years, served as a director of the Chamber of Commerce, and was a founder and director of the Capital National Bank. Theo's first wife was the "girl-next door" Margaret Batts, daughter of Judge Robert Batts. She was a president of the Settlement Club. After divorcing Theo she married Edgar Tobin of San Antonio and became one of the leaders in that community, founding the Tobin Foundation. (Okewell, her family home at 1505 Windsor, has city, state and national landmark designations. As Mrs. Tobin, Mag lived in San Antonio but retained ownership of the Windsor Road estate as a place to stay when she came up for football games.)

Theo married his second wife, Doris Anlta Ebeling, in New Orleans. The daughter of Otto Ebeling, a banker who hailed from a prominent Marble Falls family, attended Martha Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and majored in English and psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. Nita served as president of the Settlement Club in the 1920s, was the social director at the Austin Country Club for four years before the war, worked for the City Recreation Department in Austin during WWII, and was in charge of USO enlisted men's dances at Camp Swift and at the San Marcos Navigation School.<sup>13</sup>

Nita Davis replaced some of the leaded glass windows with a picture window in her bedroom (the Sibleys restored the leaded glass windows).

The couple moved to Cambridge Towers after they sold their home to the Sibleys in 1962. Theo died in June of 1974 and is buried in the Davis Mausoleum.<sup>14</sup>

Relatives of Emma's husband were frequent guests at the Windsor Road home and played an important role in the lives of the Davis family. Some are linked to public figures that had a lasting mark on Austin.

One of eight children, Nelson Davis (1858-1923), was born in Albany, New York, and moved to Galveston as a boy. He was first associated with Heidenheimer Brothers in Galveston,

<sup>13 &</sup>quot;New Hostess." Randolph Air Force Wingspread, April 30, 1948.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Austin History Center: Theodore Davis, Nelson Davis. Albert Davis Lasker, including "Theo Davis President of the Austin Country Club," undated clipping, "Local Bank Founder Theodore Davis Dies," Austin American Statesman, June 9, 1974; "Theodore Davis," Travis County Scrapbook, XI; and several obituary notices of Nelson Davis.

and moved to Austin in 1884 to establish his own grocery business, Nelson Davis & Company... Nelson's his oldest sister Nettie married wealthy Galveston banker Morris Lasker (1840-1916). Both the Davis and Lasker families are of Jewish heritage and had been prominent pioneers in Galveston. Their son Ed Lasker was associated with the Texas Flour Mills. Another Lasker son, Albert, is considered the founder of modern advertising and became a well-known Chicago

philanthropist.

Albert Davis Laskar (1880-1952) was the third of eight children. He started out as a newspaper reporter with the Galveston News while a teenager, but his father secured for him a position with Lord & Thomas, a top advertising agency in Chicago. He became a partner of the firm in 1904, bought out his partners in 1912, and served as chief executive for 44 years. Hired by the Republican Party as a publicity agent, Lasker later supervised publicity and speechwriting for Warren G. Harding's presidential campaign; he was the first advertising man to be used by a president. In 1921 President Harding appointed Lasker as chairman of the U.S. Shipping Board, where he served for two years (an impressive connection for his wholesalegrocer uncle back in Austin).

In 1916, Lasker purchased a block of stock in the Chicago Cubs baseball organization and soon became the controlling stockholder. His good friend William K. Wrigley, a Chicago chewing gum manufacturer, also became a stockholder, and in 1925, Lasker sold his interest in the Cubs to Wrigley. Lasker is largely responsible for the decision to change the name of the

playing field from Cubs Park to Wrigley Field.

In 1898, Nelson Davis and his four-year old son Theo had joined Wrigley, a young man who thought he could make a living selling chewing gum for a nickel, on a merchandising expedition in the Hill Country. During President Harding's administration, Theo visited his Lasker cousins in Washington, D.C., where Wrigley was also a guest. Wrigley renewed their acquaintance with an invitation to a Cubs game in Wrigley Field the following day.15

Lasker married Mary Woodard Lasker (1900-1994) of New York City in 1940. The couple established the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation in 1942 to support medical research. 16 Lady Bird Johnson was a personal friend of Mary Lasker, with whom she shared an interest in flowers, gardening, and urban beautification. Their friendship gave Lasker access to President Lyndon Johnson, who credited medical science with saving his life after his heart attack in 1958.

Mary provided seasonal plantings on New York's Park Avenue in perpetuity and, together with her close friend Lady Bird Johnson (who was a frequent guest in the Sibley home), planted the banks of the Potomac in Washington, D.C. with spring bulbs. Lasker brought in 10,000 azaleas for Pennsylvania Avenue, 1,500 cherry trees for Hains Point and a million daffodil bulbs for what is now the national park named for her on Columbia Island. Thanks to Lasker, three hundred donated cherry trees blossom every spring at the United Nations. In 1964 Mrs. Johnson formed the Committee for a More Beautiful Capital, responding to Mary Lasker's suggestion that she make Washington, D.C., a "garden city" and a model for the rest of the nation. Soon afterward Mrs. Lasker and Mrs. Johnson founded the Society for a More Beautiful National Capital, which received private donations for the project. The first planting took place on the mail where Mrs. Johnson planted pansies. She then planted azaleas and dogwood in the Triangle

<sup>15 &</sup>quot;W.K. Wrigley Chewing Gum King Travels in Llano." Llano News, December 11, 1959, as told by Carlos Ashley, clipping in Austin History Center: Nelson Davis biographical file. 16 http://en.wikinedia.org/wiki/Albert Lasker and www.laskerfoundation.org

at Third and Independence Avenue and ended her first planting effort at a public housing project.<sup>17</sup>

#### THE SIBLEYS

D. J. Sibley Jr. (1913-2005), the only child of dentist D. Jacobi Sibley Sr. and Effic Potts Sibley, was a physician and West Texas rancher. Born prematurely in Bertram, 20 miles outside Austin, his incubator was a shoebox filled with lambs' wool and placed in the warm oven of the kitchen's wood stove. Sibley's father developed tuberculosis and took his family to live at a sanatorium in El Paso. They settled in Fort Stockton, developing ranching and business interests in Pecos and Brewster counties.

D.J. received his first commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant from New Mexico Military Institute in 1931 and transferred to the army medical corps after his medical residency in Baltimore. He received a BA from UT Austin and an MD from UT Medical School in Galveston in 1937.

D.J. served in the U.S. Medical Corps from 1940 to 1948 in campaigns from Papua, New Guinea to Luzon and the Bataan in the Phillipines, and was in command of the medical operation at Corregidor. Following 39 months in the South Pacific, he was awarded the bronze star and rotated home to treat his tuberculosis, hepatitis and amoebiasis. He retired from the service as a Colonel after three years of hospitalization.

He married Jane Dunn in Fort Stockton in 1950, where they ranched in the Glass Mountains and he practiced medicine until 1961. The couple founded the Fort Stockton Historical Society, leaving the city a permanent gift of the Old Fort Parade Ground and their adjacent home. With this bequest, the city began rebuilding the pre-Civil War fort and restored the existing officers' quarters.

Dr. and Mrs. Sibley and their three young children – Jake, Mahala and Hiram – moved to Austin from West Texas in 1962 and bought the Davis home. Dr. Sibley nourished his interests in ecology, range management, plant biology and genetic programming while engaging in scientific research at the UT Clayton Foundation Biochemical Institute in Austin. In 1982 he established the D.J. Sibley Centennial Professorship in Plant Molecular Genetics, the first endowed support for plant research at UT Austin. Other interests were music, ballet, art, history, genealogy and philanthropy. He was active in the Austin Symphony, keenly interested in the archaeology of Texas and was a founding member of the Texas Rock Art Society, Bat Conservation International, the Chihuahuan Research Institute, Environic Foundation International, and the Big Bend Studies Program at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. D.J. was proud of his heritage as a member of the Creek Indian Nation.

Sibley was a member of the Texas Historical Foundation and a president of the English Speaking Union, which association led to entertaining guests from England such as the Lord Mayor of London, the Earl and Countess of Hardwood, and numerous visitors from foreign countries and the State Department. Foreign students were also welcomed, including a young Peruvian who lived with the Sibleys for almost a year.

As a member of the young Republican Party in Texas, Sibley introduced candidates such as David Dewhurst, Susan Combs, and John Cornyn. George W. Bush, then governor, was a frequent guest. The Sibleys hosted one of the first integrated black-tie dinner parties in Austin in 1971, in conjunction with the UT Art Department, for Mr. & Mrs. Paul Tishman of New York City, one of the largest property owners in the U.S., who were showing their collection of

<sup>17</sup> www.ladybirdjohnsontribute.org/biography.btm

African art in select museums in the Middle East and the U.S. in an effort to improve race relationships. The Sibleys have also entertained such luminaries as Aldous Huxley, James Michner, Ted Fehrenbach, Stephen Weinberg, Lady Bird Johnson, and the sisters of Lopez Portillo, president of Mexico, who reciprocated by inviting the Austin Symphony to perform in Mexico as their guests.

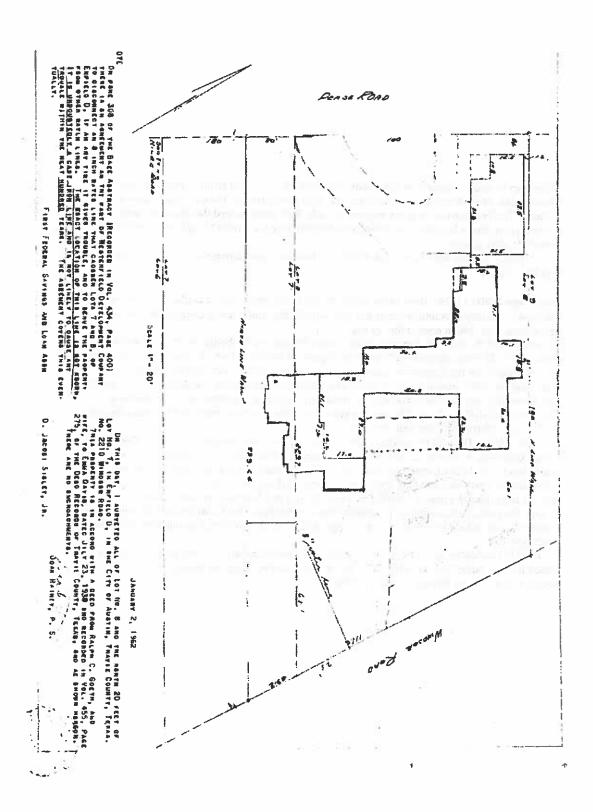
Dr. Sibley's ashes were interred at his Glass Mountain ranch alongside his son Jake and daughter Mahala. 18

Jane Dunn Sibley (1924-) lives in the Davis-Sibley Home and is active as philanthropist and arts leader, recently devoting much of her time outside the family to the Long Center for the Performing Arts, which opened this spring.

Jane joined the board of directors of the Austin Symphony Orchestra in 1967 and served a president for 25 years, developing Symphony Square in buildings from the era of the Civil War. Her philosophy for the Symphony was simple: a nonprofit organization should operate in the black, and the ASO does just that. In 1970, as a member of the executive committee, she cast the first dissenting vote against dissolving the financially strapped organization. The remaining board members followed suit. She became president of the Austin Symphony Orchestra Society in 1971, and chairman of the board in 1996.

Born in West Texas in the spring of 1924, Jane's early memories are of the Great Depression. Her parents were A. Warren Dunn and Minnic Mahala Walker Dunn of Ft. Stockton. Warren was a banker and later a postmaster. Jane received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Texas and was later awarded an honorary doctorate from St. Edward's University. She and her husband's mutual interests in Texas history and historic preservation continued through the years, culminating in the establishment of the Rock Art Foundation, dedicated to the preservation of the earliest prehistoric paintings in the U.S. at Seminole Canyon State Park and other locations.

The US Geological Survey Map of the Delaware Mountain-Salt Flat area depicts a feature named for her, called "Jane's Window." Jane was honored by Meals on Wheels in 2003, and was named Austin's Most Worthy Citizen in 1998.



Site plan for the original house showing the addition (1976)

## On Laguna Art Tour

Dr. and Mrs. D. J. Sibley Jr.'s bandsome Spanish Renaissance home at 2219 Windsor Road, shown above, is cond of four Assain homes to be specific the public Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. during the "Home and Art Tour" sponsored annually by Laguna Glerin Art Museum as a fund-taining event.

as a fund-raising event.

Proceeds from the tong, are used for maintenance of laguna Gloria, which was once the magnificent home of the lake Cara Driscoll. A gift from her to the Taxas Fine Arts Association, statewise organization of which Laguna Gloria is the local chapter, the beautiful unusoum and its wooded grounds, located on Lakeg Austin of 180% from the first the responshifting of this chapter. Visitors to the homes Sanday are invited to include the nusseum on their tour.

their tom.

Many visitors to the Capital City and Australes alike have expressed a desire to see the interior of fin Sibley's big white hoose that sits high on a bill from the Windsor Road viewbut, if approaching the equally handsome rear of the house, the grounds are level with Pelisis lined, and have two airched entrances, connected by a circular driveway. The address here also reads: 2216 Windsor.

Windoor.

Typical architectural features of the Speakh Remainsance period, found in the Sibley home, built in early 1830°s, are its ancheditioner alop the red tile red filther roof tiles and the decorative from work that's used both leaded and out. The foyer's tairway hapister of iron was designed by Weigi of Austin, as were most of the other wrought iron features, such as giant trop tree branches with blue leaven and colorful plans and iron bees that adorn the wall of the long arched front porch.

arched front porch.
One of these iron works of art is the inteleate directoren in the high celling Bying room, with its massive exposed beams—smother Spenish Influence. The huge fireplace is faced with shellstone, and above is a massive oil painting by Cécil Casebiel, with whom the Sibleys grew up.



American-Statement/UPE

DS. AND MRS. D. J. SIELEY'S HOME TO BE ON LAGUNA GLOBIA TOUR

Furnishings are in keeping with the period style of the house and michade both Spanish and Mexicum Indicaca. Of particular inputs are a pair of slables made brom consistly designed high aliar candlesticits. On the coffice tible meathy are Mexicum Santos from the New Mexico area and dating circa 1798.

The tour will also include these bomes: Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Sackton, 225 Spring 1255; Mr. and Mrs. Dick Raynolds, 246 Pemberton Place; and Mr. and Mrs. William Lester, 1163 Bluebounet Lane.

A donation of \$1 will admit one person to all four bones —and, there is no admission charge for the Leguna Gloria Art Minsoum. Tickets may be obtained at the door of all of the bones.



Ultra comfort is reflected in the Throad? Livis home at 2210 Windoor road, plettred above, with attractive significant contributing a decorative note.

## mpram. RUSCOLA \* Austin Public

## DEATH CLAIMS **NELSON DAVIS**

#### Came to Austin in 1884.

Nelson Davis, \$4 years of ago, ploneer Austin business man and leader for years in business and vivic affairs, died. Sunday afternoon

Avic limits, used sunday externous at 6:26 octock at his home, 408 West Tenth street. His death followed o preionged illness. Mr. Davie moved to Austin in 1884. He founded the firm of Nelson Davis & Son, in which he continued as senior member, until his death

initial de senior member, until his death. He was born in Albany, N. Y. July 4, 18-78, and went while a hot of Galteston, where he lived until he caute to Austra. He is eurvived by his widow and one you. Theodore P. Davis; by one valut, Mrs. M. Lanker of New York; two hothers, Louis Davis and Soi Davis of Shreveport, Le.

Funeral arrangements will be an-

Funeral arrangements will be an-neunced later.

### NELSON DAVIS, WIDELY KNOWN BUSINESS MAN. IS CLAIMED BY DEATH

Nelson Davia, prominent citizen and business man of Austin, died Sunday svening at 6:28 o'clock at his home, 400 West Tenth etreet, after a prolonged illness. He was born in Albany. N. Y., in 1852, and came to Austin in 1884, when he founded the firm of Nelson Davis Company, which after the graduation of his sen, Theodore, from Yale, became Nelson Davis & Bon. As senior pariner in this firm. Mr. Davis took active interest in the business until almost the close of his Rie.

Mr. Davis is survived by his widow, formerly Miss Emma Levison, and one sen, Theodore P. Davis; a state. Mrs. M. Lasker of New York; and two brothers, Louis Davis and Sol Davis, of Shreveport, La.

In his death, Austin loser one of her most public-spirited and prominent citizens, and his passing is mourned in eli circles, high and low rich and poor, for he was a friend of every one.

The funeral will be held Tuesday aftornoon at 4 o'clock from the family residence. The active pallbearers will be A. Goldman, C. T. Granger, G. L. Diggs, J. W. Batley, George Nunnullea, J. G. Dourlas, all of whom had been essociated with Mr. Nelson in the firm's businoses for many years.

J. G. Dourlas, all of whom had been essociated with Mr. Nelson in the firm's businose for many years.

J. W. McClendon, H. A. Wros, Jake Hirshfeld, Jud S. James, W. H. Poits, E. H. Pevry, E. P. Wilmot, E. C. Bartholmew, Walter Wilcox, Bd Robinson, Louis Davis, Morris Stern, E. Longini, end J. L. Hunter.

As a mark of respect to Mr. Davis the wholesale estoblishments of the city will be closed Tuesday efternoon from 4 to 3 o'clock during the interest of the city will be closed Tuesday efternoon from 4 to 3 o'clock during the interest of the city will be closed Tuesday efternoon from 4 to 3 o'clock during the interest of the city will be closed Tuesday efternoon from 4 to 3 o'clock during the interest of the city will be closed Tuesday efternoon from 4 to 3 o'clock during the interest of the city will be closed Tuesday efternoon from 5 to 5 to 100 to 100 to 100 to 100 to 100 to 10

#### FORMER GALVESTON MAN DIES AT AUSTIN

#### Nelson Davis Passes Away at Age of 64,

By Associated Press. Austin, March 5.-Nelson Davis, 1 \$4, a prominent Auslin merchans came here from Galveston le 1881, Sunday night after a protonged

News of the death of Mr. I came as a shock to his many frien-Galveston. Mr. Davis is well-ter bered here. He was in busines Galveston for a number of years

ing associated with the Beiden? Brothers.

Later Mr. Davis west to

Later Mr. Davis west to where he war assessed with Heidenheimes. For the past i years he has been in business we son uoder the firm name of Davis & compeny.

Th. Davis war the som of the firm name of the firm name. The heavest dants of Galveston. He was e to fi the later Mrs. Max Mass of too. He was elso a brother of thous a session of New Tori Mrs. Harry H. Levy of Galvestoniess. Ed. Lasker of the Texas Plour Mills, end Albert D. Inhairman of the United States at board are naphews.

The decedent is murvived by and family at Anetin, and by a at Shreveport.

Mr. Davis was a gentrous cotor to philanthropic activities decominations.

Strange 1 100

#### Nelson Davis, of Austin. Dies; 2 Brothers Here

News reached this city last evening of the death in Austin, Texas, of Nolson Davis, head of the firm of Neison Davis and Son, for years well known in the wholessie grocery trade. Mr. Davis was n brother of Louis and Sol Davis of this city and of Mrs. M. Lasker. of New York City, mother of the chairman of the shipping board. Both brothere of Mr. Neison left Streveport for Austin iast night.

#### FORMER GALVESTONIAN

DIES AT AUSTIN HO

Special to The News.

Austle, Tex., Marth (... Nelson Division Division austle well known Austle wholesels gradied at his hotse here tenight afte lingering liness. He formerly line Calvaston.

Mr. Davis was the son of the late and Mrs. A. Davis, who ware per residents of this cuty. He was a brown of Mrs. Merris Lander, terrestry of Mrs. Merry Mrs. Yes York, and as used Mrs. Herry M. Lavy at labs Cty. He was a uncur of Albert D. Lasser, rt on the Committee of the Mrs. Herry Mrs. Herry Mrs. Herry Herry Mrs. Lavy at labs can be continued by the wife and one Theo Davis.



PROFESSOR ERNEST SAM-UELS of Northwestern University thinks that everyone should write and speak more nearly in accord with the man in the street. Split an infinitive when it more nearly fits the case, and end a sentence in a preposition once in a white

once in a white.

It was a delight to read of Professor Samuels' hellefs, because we have been known to make surh pure grammarians as Theo Davis wince at our lapse into butchery of the English language. We have found a more tolerant attitude in our professional friend L. L. Click, a custodian of the English language at the University of Texas.

It was Prof. Click who reported 'ceading where some fuss-hidget in Great British sent out a dictum against ending a resistence with a preposition in government documents. To which Winston Churchill is supposed to have replied:

eupposed to have replied:
"This is the sort of nonsense
up with which I will not put."

WRILE ON the subject of Prof. Click, who or whom we have known for some time, we advance the opinion that he has mellowed with the years. We have not made sip our mind yet whether this is for the best.

At one time ne possessed a delicate but incisive way of pinning an antagonist's shoulders to the mal in verbal combat. In fact it was done so subtly that students coming away from a conference often didn't realize what had happened to them until they were on routs home.

In they were on route nome.

He still clears his threat acis his custom pauses between phrases to accentuate what is to come—but does not touch up those in argument with the adrest use of words as once.

PERHAPS THE mere mention of Theo Davis' name is not enough. Davis is e Yale man. In an earlier stage of his life he was considered on the intellectual side. He was sharp, quick in repartee, interested in philosophy, and quite a student of history.

history.

When he took over the Nelson Davis and Son wholesale grocery business several years ago some wondered if a college-bred intellectual would succeed. No one wonders anymore It has expanded and succeeded beyond the hopes of most individuals.

most individuals

Once of twice we have tried to pin Theo Davis down for a profile, because it would make interesting reading. When it gats right down to the phrase-cutting he is always out of pocket. Weldon Hart, late nf this staff, had him right up to the bank once. But let him get away.

ne di

#### Theo Davis President of the Austin Country Club

Theo Davis is the president-elect of the Austra Country club. Clubs and club-life he was lift hard since the crash came in 147% All this is being changed the rountry over. Social clubs are coming hatk everywhers. Club life is becoming more appealing the nation over. Thro Davis hes been out on the firing line for the Friendly City and the empire commonwealth for a long time. Whenever he is drafted he sceves. In days of old the Austin Country club has a distinctive record surpassed by none under the skies of Texas. Now a new program is promised. Now new life will be injected. There is a splendid executive organisation and the manager of the historic institution with its marvelous golf links will be backed to the finish. All week and no play has finished many an anthitious man or woman. That is, they were gut down too early in life. Outdner recreation is necessary. This is one retson why golf is golf.

no.date

## CAME UP FROM TEXAS TO PAY FINE IN NORTH

Yale ,Bradbate Gave 3100 in New Haven Court-Settled with Woman Auto Hurt.

(Special to The World.)
NEW HAVEN, Conn., Den. After belays covering all mouths, in which time his case was continued again and again as a search. Theodore P. Devin, a graduate of Tale in the class of 1818, is specify; belay the hand 1818, and not satisfied. In the City Court here yesterday he was that the law has been satisfied. In the City Court here yesterday he was fined 3169 and costs after be had come all the way from Austin to plead guilty to recides driving and to plead guilty to recides driving and to plead guilty to recides driving and sute to Savin-Book, after the Tale commencement last Juna, when he struck Miss Mary Rancies at Davanpurt and Howard Armana. Her legs were broken are not been as the legs were broken are not not set of the case.

was hald on \$1,500 ball, pending the estroyre of her case.

Soon he west home on the agreement that he would return from Texas to stand trial when the authorities wanted him. When it was seen that alies Maardon would recover, Davis was sent for. The trial lasted only three minutes.

Betters he left New Haven Davis paid e' rhe superness of Miss Restrict, and e' the cuteratood he made a cash sertiment also. She has not setirely retired.

#### . . THEODORE P. DAVIS. . .

"Theodore P. Davis is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Helson Davis of Amstin.

varia .

ie Cart

"As he grow up, his indulgent parents gave him everything he wented, even to two entomobiles at the same time. He is a firm, well-balanced person, grounded in truth, perseverance and honor. He is brilliant, emergetic, lively and full of fun. He is a great favorite with all who know him.

"Theodore P. Davis was born in Austin and was educated at Whitis. From there, he want to Yale, making his B.A. in three years, graduating in 1913.

"Returning to Austin, he was taken into his father's business.

Last Year, having made good, the firm name was changed, at Christman
time, to Helson Davis and Son.

"When war was declared and the first training comp announced, Theo gave up his business and signed up for the officer's training at Leon Springs. Being underweight, however, he was not accepted. Undismayed, he emlisted as a private in the swiation section, signal corps.

"Entering the officers' training school at Kelly Field some time later, he made the course, receiving a commission as first lieutement and assigned immediately to foreign service.

"After a short stay in New York, Lieutenant Davis is now "over there".

"Of one thing be sure: Whatever Lieutemant Davis starts to do, that will he see through."

Travia County Scrapbook, XI

## Local Bank Founder Theodore Davis Dies

National Bank, died Friday.

A resident of Cambridge Austin.

Chamber of Commerce since its inception. He also was a Sunday. founder of the Austin Country Qub.

Survivers include his wife, er of Capital Mrs. Nita Davis of Austin; and a country, Mira, Ted Cilliord of

Private graveside services will be Sunday at 3 p.m. at Nelson Davis Mausoleum, direction ale grocers, and had Cook-Walden Puneral Home. The body will lie in state at Cook-Walden until 2 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

#### D.J. Sibley

D.J. Sibley Jr., retired physician and West Texas number, passed away Saturday menning January 8th, 2006. at his house in Austin in his minety second year of life.



2005, at his home in Asisth in his ininety second year of life.

D. I. was the ordy child of Dr. D. Jacobi Shley Sor an Effic Potts Sibley Sor an emonth federal isocome rax began, in Bertraen, 20 miles outside of Asisth, D. Jacobi Shley Sr. and Effic Potts Sibley Sor alless outside of Asisth, D. J. weighed only 3lbs. His isrcubanor was a shore box filled with lambs wood, plead in the warm own of the kinches wood stove. The genile care of a fine, old numerated assed his file. D.J.'s father, D. Jacobi Sr. was a donnise with offines in several central Texas entral towns. He developed subservations and entered a sanstorium for mermeur in B Pado, taking the wife, Effic and D.J., to live there. The Sibleys never left West Texas Along with Effic Sibley's parenta, John and Brame Potts, they settled in Port Stockura, developing ranching and business lonces us in Froce and Secenter Counties, brancing many carries, horses, and sheep with the Taxy S.\*

D.J. served in the U.S. Medical Coops from 1840 to 1948 and participated in the first jumple fighting in 1st in bistory. He was one of the original surgeous with the 18th portable surgical bospical structure of the original surgeous with the 18th portable surgical bospical structure for the original surgeous with the 18th portable surgical bospical structure after the Japanese occupation of the silands. They built palue astors to protect the surgeous From the increasant rain while operating and constructed latters to transport the wounded along footpaths through the rank and send as of the time nearly suppose corougation of the silands. They built palue astors to protect the surgeous From the increasant and while operating and constructed latters to transport the wounded along footpaths through the rank and send as for the time nearly suppose from the increasant rain while operating and constructed latters to transport the wounded along footpaths through the rank and and a fast on the nearest was the hospital D.J. genved in ten major thoughter made and send of the medical op

the subservacions, he-positis, and amochiasis. He was separated from the service as a Colonel after three years beopitalization.

D.J. reached his B.A. from UT Austell and his MD from UT Medical School in Galveston in 1937. At IT, he married Jane Duan Sibley in Port Biockton in 1950, where he practiced medicine and cracined until 1961. During this tible, D.J. persuaded the bishop of the Rio Grande on its him stars a mission in Foot Stockton, where he comed on hy reader. A gift of a tray, bisseric Victorian one room charch from Peton that was recented from the wretking ball and moved by D.J. and Jane to Port Stockton lett became St. Stephen's Episcopsi Church. Together, they founded the Port Scotcon Historical Society, leaving the city a permanent gaft of the Old Port Parade ground, and their home, which was adjacent to it. With this bequest, the city began rebuilding the per-tayli war fort and restoring the existing officer's quelter, and Elizam moved to Austa's where he nounshed his interest in ecology, range management, plant biology and genetic programshing while engaging in advantife research at the UT Cayono Foundation Buchemated Institute in Austin, In 1962, D.J. catablished the D.J. Shley Consumital Professorehip in Plant Melianita Constitute the D.J. Shley Consumital Professorehip in Plant Melianita Constitute the Austin, In 1962, D.J. catablished the D.J. Shley Consumital Professorehip in Plant Melianita Constitute the Austin American of the Forman Basin in the Interior Stockton, was keenly interessed in the archieology of Texas and was a founding member of the Texas Rock Art Society. Bet Conservation International and the Big Bend Soulies Program at Sail Roos State Indian Nation.

He ts survived by his suffect Sel years, Jane Dunn Shibley, their sor Hiram of Alpine. - along with his suffect Sel years, Jane Dunn Shibley

He is survived by his wife of \$4 years, Jame Dunn Sibley, their sour Hiram of Alpine. -slong with his wife Liz and their two children. Rashel sold Christopher. Hisloh and Klowe Sibley-Carliorth, daughters of Mahali Sibley and Sazal and Elizabeth, daughters of Mahali Sibley and Sazal and Elizabeth, daughters of Jake Sibley and their mother, Jan. Jake and Mahala proceeded him in death. His faithful camine friend, Profile, superint hit him as the end, along with Rasil Morano.

The fausthe will mass their dants faithful camine frants I transmitted.

with him at the end, along with Raul Morents.

The family will great their Austin friends as home on Sunday, January 18th from 400 to 6-00 ptm D.F. sakes will be placed in the family conservey at the Glass Mounsain Rauch this Spring, following a service in Port Stocknow with the Revenued Elisine Foston officiating, Gafts may be made in honor of D.J. to The Austin 7870. The Long Center PO Bota 301449 Austin 78703-0025; UTAwatin Flant Bology Graduate Program 1 University Station A6700 78712-0180.

Obituary of D.J. Sibley, Jr. Austin American-Statesman January 14, 2005

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