

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2008-0032

HLC DATE:

October 27, 2008

PC DATE:

December 9, 2008

APPLICANT: Suzanne and Mark Stewart, owners

HISTORIC NAME: Leach House

WATERSHED: Shoal Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 1402 Wathen Avenue

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

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: 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.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: 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 (Cuppett and Myers absent).

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: 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: 8-0.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is beyond the bounds of the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

CITY COUNCIL DATE: December 18, 2008

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The ca. 1940 house is an excellent example of Colonial Revival architecture, built by local physician D. H. Clay Perkins, and is also associated with William B. Leach, who designed the World War II-era magnesium plant in North Austin, which later became the Balcones Research Center and the J.J. Pickle Research Campus of the University of Texas.

Architecture:

Two-story rectangular-plan side-gabled stone-veneered Colonial Revival-styled house with a central flat-pedimented portico on twin columns; 6:6 Colonial Revival-

styled windows; additions include a breezeway and one-story addition and garage to the left of the principal block.

Historical Associations:

The first owner of the house was H. Clay Perkins, and his wife Mary. Dr. Perkins was a prominent young physician in Austin whose career was cut short by an automobile wreck near San Marcos which cost him his life in 1942. Mary Perkins sold the house to Helen Phelps Leach in September, 1943. Helen's husband William B. Leach, was a chemical engineer who designed the magnesium plant in North Austin for the federal government during World War II; International Minerals and Chemical Company operated the plant. When the war ended, the facility became the Balcones Research Center and later the J.J. Pickle Research Campus of the University of Texas. Leach was the manager of the plant until 1946. He passed away May 7, 1970. Helen Leach lived in this house until her death in 1981. Her estate sold the house in 1983 to Tom and Lilla Ezell, who lived here until 1996. Tom Ezell was active in the commercial real estate business. They Ezells sold the house in 1996 to Michael and Laurie Ann Jaffe, who sold the house in 1998 to the current owners, Dr. Mark T. and Suzanne Stewart. Dr. Stewart is Chief of the Surgery Council at Seton Medical Center, and specializes in vascular and transplant surgery.

PARCEL NO.: 01160014090000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The east 68 feet of Lot 6, and the west 38 feet of Lot 7, Block 21, Pemberton Heights, Section 5

ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$16,164 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$2,744 (1/2 of city taxes).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$1,239,056

PRESENT USE: Single-family residence.

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNER:

Mark and Suzanne P. Stewart
1402 Wathen Avenue
Austin, Texas 78703

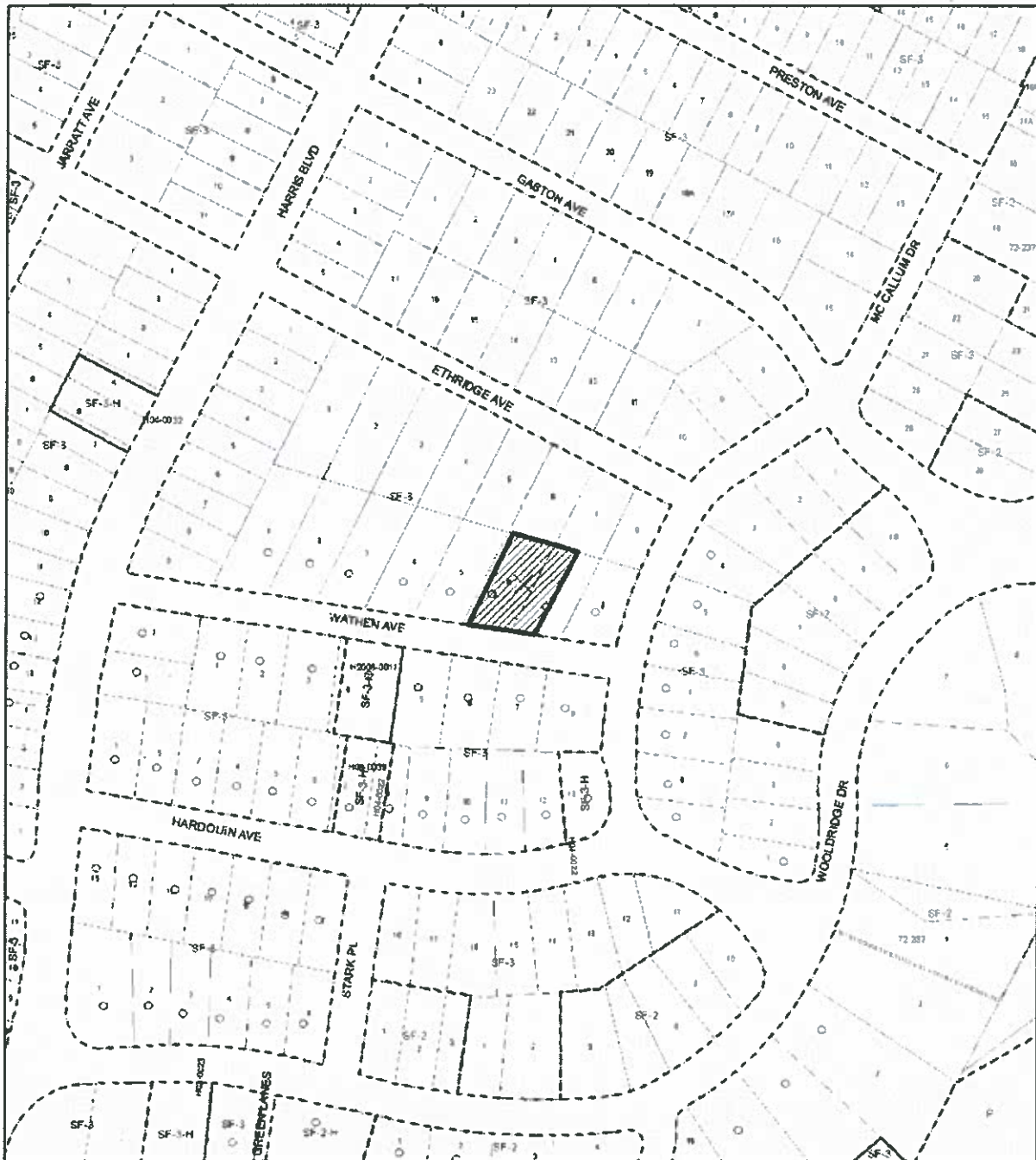
DATE BUILT: ca. 1940




ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Mrs. Leach added a two-story addition to the rear of the house in 1967; the current owners constructed the one-story kitchen addition with a small porch and a rear patio in 1999. The house maintains its historic appearance and integrity.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Dr. H. Clay and Mary Perkins (1940)

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.

LOCATION MAP



-  **SUBJECT TRACT**
-  **ZONING BOUNDARY**
-  **PENDING CASE**

OPERATOR: S. MEEKS

HISTORIC ZONING

ZONING CASE# C14H-2008-0032
 ADDRESS 1402 WATHEN AVE
 SUBJECT AREA 0.000 ACRES
 GRID: H24
 MANAGER: S. SADOWSKY



1" = 200'

This map has been produced by G I S Services for the sole purpose of geographic reference.
 No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

Leach House
1406 Wathen Avenue
ca. 1940



Dr. Clay Perkins
~~1402 Wathen Avenue~~ 1402 Wathen Avenue
169 - 21 7 & E.25' of 6 -
Pemberton Heights #5
Frame res. & garage & Maids room attache
20637 - 10/18/40
14

Building permit to Dr. Clay Perkins (1940)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas
Dr Clay Perkins

No 15310

Sec. 159

Date 10023-40

Received of

1402 Wathen

Address

Ten and no/100-

Amount

\$ 10.00

Plumber

Wattinger

Size of Tap

1"

Date of Connection

10-24-40

Size of Tap Made

1"

Size Service Made

1"

Size Main Tapped

2"

From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock

6'6"

From Prop. Line to Curb Cock

49'

Location of Meter

21' 11" 11-29-40

Type of Box

21' 11" 11-29-40

Depth of Main in St.

2'

Depth of Service Line

18"

From Curb Cock to Tap on Main

16'

Checked by Engr. Dept.

11-29-40

No. Fittings	Size
1 Curb Cock	1"
1 Elbow	
1 St. Elbow	
1 Bushing	1/2"
1 Reducer	1/2" x 1/4"
1 Pipe	1/2" galv.
1 Lead going to connection	
1 Nipples	1"
1 Union	1" 270-12ex
1 Plug	1"
1 Tee	1"
1 Stop	1"
1 Box	1"
1 Lid	1"
Valves	
Job No.	102818
Req. No.	15310

INDEXED

Water service permit to Dr. Clay Perkins (1940)

No 17251A

APPLICATION FOR SEWER CONNECTION.

Austin, Texas, 10-23-40
To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,
City of Austin, Texas

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions

on premises owned by Dr. Clay Perkins

at 1402 Wathen Ave.

further described as lot block 21, outlet

subdivision 159, division 159

which is to be used as a

Residence

In this place there are to be installed

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance

charge.

Respectfully

2 DEEP John Wattinger

Stub Out

Connected 3-13-41 Permit 10-28-40

Size of Main 4 1/2 inch

Size of Service 4 inch

Feet Deep 4 at Curb

Feet from Property Line

Feet from Curb Line

Inspected by

Connection made by

10-28-40

14-29-40

14-29-40

Sewer service permit to Dr. Clay Perkins (1940)

OWNER Mrs. Helen Leach	ADDRESS 1402 Wathen Avenue
PLAT 159	LOT 7 & E 25' of 6
SUBDIVISION Pemberton Hts Sec 5	BLK 21
OCCUPANCY Den, Baths (2), Sunroom & Bedroom & Elevator	
BLD PERMIT # 102818	DATE 3-20-67
CONTRACTOR W. T. Walker	ESTIMATE 13,000.
WATER TAP REC #	NO. OF FIXTURES 10
SEWER TAP REC #	
Addition to Existing Two Story Residence	
1,363 sq.ft.	

Building permit to Mrs. Helen Leach for a two-story rear addition (1967)

Dr. Perkins Is Killed In Car Wreck

Dr. Clay H. Perkins, prominent Austin physician, was killed Saturday night in a traffic accident on the San Antonio highway west of San Marcos.

Sheriff M. M. Wren of San Marcos told the American-Statesman that the automobile which Dr. Perkins was driving

apparently went out of control, judging from skid marks on the pavement.

Sheriff Wren said Dr. Perkins was hurled out of the car into the ditch and the car rolled on into a roadside field where it came to a halt.

When the body was brought to a hospital in San Marcos, it was determined that the young physician had died of a broken neck, Sheriff Wren said.

The body will be brought to the Corley-Weed Funeral home here pending completion of funeral arrangements.

District Legion Meeting Opens In City Today

Members, Auxiliary

Plan Full Program

Obituary of Dr. H. Clay Perkins
Austin American, March 15, 1942

Dr. Perkins' Funeral Arranged

Funeral services for Dr. H. Clay Perkins, prominent Austin physician, were to be held at 4 p. m. Monday from the Cason-Monk Funeral home in Nacogdoches.

Dr. Perkins was killed Saturday night in an automobile accident west of San Marcos on the San Antonio highway. Sheriff M. M. Wren of San Marcos said that the car apparently had got out of control and the doctor was thrown out. His neck was broken. The car crossed a ditch and came to a stop in a field beside the highway.

Survivors include his widow, a seven-year-old son, Kemper Perkins, two sisters, Mrs. Jesse Wilson of Weatherford, N. J., and Mrs. A. Leavitt Nelson of Nacogdoches.

The body was sent to Nacogdoches Sunday night by the Weed-Corley Funeral home.

Obituary of Dr. H. Clay Perkins
Austin Statesman, March 16, 1942

DR. H. CLAY PERKINS
The body of Dr. H. Clay Perkins, who was fatally injured in an automobile accident near San Antonio Saturday night, was sent by express at 10:15 p. m. Sunday night by the Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Services in Macomb were held at 4 p. m. Monday. Dr. Perkins is survived by his wife and one son, Kemper Perkins.

Obituary of Dr. H. Clay Perkins
Austin American, March 17, 1942

WILLIAM B. LEACH
William B. Leach, 80, of 1403 W. 14th St. died in a local hospital Thursday. He was a member of the University of Presbyterian Church, Knights Templars of Niagara Falls, N. Y. Leach was a veteran of World War I, where he served as a Major in Chemical Warfare. Leach was a graduate of MIT and the University of Chicago. He was an All American guard under Alvin Karpis. He was a chemical engineer and designed the Magnesium Plant which is now operating in Research and was manager of the plant until 1941. He had also served as Superintendent at the DuPont plant. Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Helen Leach of Austin; and a niece, Mrs. Marion Verrill of Denver, Colo. Funeral will be Saturday at 4 p. m. at Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Burial will be in Niagara Falls, N. Y. Pallbearers will be Graves Landrum, Alfred Ellison, Leonie G. H. Fournier, George J. P. Hart and William Gardiner. Memorial contributions may be made to charity.

Obituary of William B. Leach
Austin American, May 9, 1970

LEACH, Mrs. William B., of Austin, died Saturday. Services 3 p.m. today at Weed-Corley Funeral Home. Burial, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Obituary of Helen Leach
Austin American-Statesman, June 29, 1981

A. APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC ZONING

OK to go
SS
9-30-08

PROJECT INFORMATION:

#1497844

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY	
APPLICATION DATE: <u>09-30-08</u>	FILE NUMBER(S): <u>CUH-2008-</u>
TENTATIVE HLC DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE PC or ZAP DATE: <u>100</u>	
TENTATIVE CC DATE: _____	
CASE MANAGER: <u>S. Sidorovsky</u>	CITY INITIATED: YES / NO
APPLICATION ACCEPTED BY: <u>Roxmory</u>	ROLLBACK: YES/NO

BASIC PROJECT DATA:

1. OWNER'S NAME: <u>Suzanne & Mark Stewart</u>
2. PROJECT NAME: <u>The Leach House</u>
3. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (or Range): <u>1402 Wathen</u>
ZIP: <u>78703</u> COUNTY: <u>Travis</u>
IF PROJECT ADDRESS CANNOT BE DEFINED ABOVE:
LOCATED _____ FRONTAGE FEET ALONG THE <u>N. S. E. W.</u> (CIRCLE ONE) SIDE OF
APPROXIMATELY _____ (ROAD NAME PROPERTY FRONTS ONTO), WHICH IS
INTERSECTION WITH _____ DISTANCE FROM ITS
_____ CROSS STREET.

AREA TO BE REZONED:

4. ACRES _____	(OR)	SQ. FT. _____
5. ZONING AND LAND USE INFORMATION:		
EXISTING ZONING <u>SF-3</u>	EXISTING USE <u>Residence</u>	TRACT# (IF MORE THAN 1) _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
ACRES / SQ. FT. _____	PROPOSED USE <u>Residence</u>	PROPOSED ZONING <u>SF-3-H</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

RELATED CURRENT CASES:

6. ACTIVE ZONING CASE? (YES/NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____
7. RESTRICTIVE COVENANT? (YES/NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____
8. SUBDIVISION? (YES/NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____
9. SITE PLAN? (YES/NO)	FILE NUMBER: _____

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (SUBDIVISION REFERENCE OR METES AND BOUNDS):

10a. SUBDIVISION REFERENCE: Name: Pemberton Heights Section 5
Block(s) 21 Lot(s) 6 & 7 except Outlot(s) _____
Plat Book: 3 Page the west 10' of 6 & the east 40' of 7
Number: 134 + 136
10b. METES AND BOUNDS (Attach two copies of certified field notes if subdivision reference is not available or zoning includes partial lots)

DEED REFERENCE CONVEYING PROPERTY TO PRESENT OWNER AND TAX PARCEL I.D.:

11. VOLUME: _____ PAGE: _____ TAX PARCEL I.D. NO. 01160014090000

OTHER PROVISIONS:

12. IS PROPERTY IN A ZONING COMBINING DISTRICT / OVERLAY ZONE? YES ☒ NO
TYPE OF COMBINING DIST/OVERLAY ZONE (NCCD, NP, etc) _____
13. LOCATED IN A LOCAL OR NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES ☒ NO
14. IS A TIA REQUIRED? YES ☒ NO (NOT REQUIRED IF BASE ZONING IS NOT CHANGING)
TRIPS PER DAY: _____
TRAFFIC SERIAL ZONE(S): _____

OWNERSHIP TYPE:

15. ☒ SOLE ☐ COMMUNITY PROPERTY ☐ PARTNERSHIP ☐ CORPORATION ☐ TRUST
If ownership is other than sole or community property, list individuals/partners/principals below or attach separate sheet.

OWNER INFORMATION:

16. OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION
SIGNATURE: Suzanne Stewart NAME: Suzanne & Mark Stewart
FIRM NAME: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
STREET ADDRESS: 1402 Wathen
CITY: Austin STATE: Tx ZIP CODE: 78703
EMAIL ADDRESS: SuzanneStewart@shglobal.net

AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

17. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION
SIGNATURE: S Deaderick NAME: Suzanne Deaderick
FIRM NAME: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: 477-2929
STREET ADDRESS: 2502 Harris Blvd
CITY: Austin STATE: Tx ZIP CODE: 78703
CONTACT PERSON: Suzanne TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: Suzanne@Grande.com.net

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY: _____

D. SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION

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 BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

X Suzanne Stewart 9-21-08
Signature Date

Suzanne Stewart
Name (Typed or Printed)

Firm (If applicable)

INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

As owner or authorized agent, my signature authorizes staff to visit and inspect the property for which this application is being submitted.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

X Suzanne Stewart 9-21-08
Signature Date

Suzanne Stewart
Name (Typed or Printed)

Firm (If applicable)

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

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

I, Suzanne Stewart have checked for subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions,
(Print name of applicant)

restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays prohibiting certain uses and/or requiring certain development restrictions i.e. height, access, screening etc. on this property, located at

1402 Wathen
(Address or Legal Description)
Austin, Tx. 78703

If a conflict should result with the request I am submitting to the City of Austin due to subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays it will be my responsibility to resolve it. I also acknowledge that I understand the implications of use and/or development restrictions that are a result of a subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays.

I understand that if requested, I must provide copies of any and all subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlay information which may apply to this property.

Suzanne Stewart
(Applicant's signature)

9-21-08
(Date)

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

NO 1038135

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 01-1600-1409-0000

PROPERTY OWNER:

STEWART MARK & SUZANNE P
1402 WATHEN AVE
AUSTIN, TX 78703-2528

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

E 68 FT OF LOT 6 * & W 38 FT OF LOT
7 BLK 21 PEMBERTON HEIGHTS SEC 5

ACRES 0.000 MIN% .00000 TYPE

SITUS INFORMATION: 1402 WATHEN AV

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	TOTAL
2007	AUSTIN ISD	*ALL PAID*
	CITY OF AUSTIN (TRAV)	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT	*ALL PAID*
	ACC (TRAVIS)	*ALL PAID*
TOTAL SEQUENCE 0		*ALL PAID*
TOTAL TAX:		*ALL PAID*
UNPAID FEES:		* NONE *
INTEREST ON FEES:		* NONE *
COMMISSION:		* NONE *
TOTAL DUE ==>		*ALL PAID*

TAXES PAID FOR YEAR 2007 \$27,200.43

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 rollback 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 09/29/2008

Fee Paid: \$10.00

Nelda Wells Spears
Tax Assessor-Collector

By: 

Historical Documentation-Deed Chronology

Transaction

Volume/Page

Bradfield, Brush & Jarratt to
H. Clay Perkins

651?/530-2

July 15, 1940

all of lot 6, block 21, section 5
except the west 10 ft. of lot 6
and all of lot 7, block 21, section 5
except the east 40 ft. of lot 7
Pemberton Heights

Mary M. Pekins (community estate
for self and late husband H. Clay
Perkins) to
Helen Phelps Leach
September 7, 1943
same legal

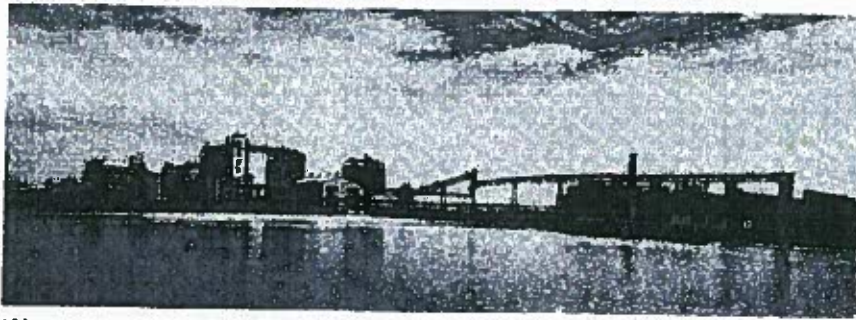
Estate of Helen Phelps Leach to 8024/805
Tom and Lilla Ezell
March 15, 1983
same legal

Tom and Lilla Ezell to 12751/1744
Michael N. and Laurie
Ann Jaffe
August 12, 1996
same legal

Michael N. an Laurie 13325/1926
Ann Jaffe to
Mark and Suzanne Stewart
December 4, 1998
same legal

Historical Documentation-Occupancy History

1940-1943	H. Clay & Mary M. Perkins
1943-1983	William B. & Helen Phelps Leach
1983-1996	Tom & Lilla Ezel
1996-1997	No listing
1998	Phone book unavailable
1998-present	Mark & Suzanne Stewart



GENERAL VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST

MAGNESIUM PLANT

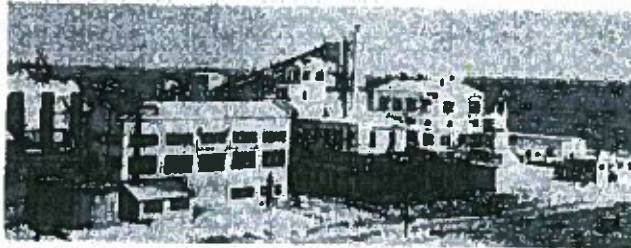
AUSTIN, TEXAS

PLANCOR 265

PROPERTY OF DEFENSE PLANT CORPORATION

A SUBSIDIARY OF RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION

GENERAL VIEW OF PLANT LOOKING SOUTHEAST



PLANCOR 265

Alcalde Feb. 1950

February 1950

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News Review

The Memorial Research Center Is Ours

As of December 20, 1949, the once-called Off-Campus Research Center became the property of the University of Texas. Under the direction of J. Neils Thompson, B.S. in C.E. '35, M.S. in C.E. '44, the Memorial Research Center is engaged in significant research which will benefit the State, the Nation, and the progress of Science.

ON December 20, 1949, the University of Texas received title to the International Minerals and Chemical Company War Plant known as the Austin Magnesium Plant, Plancor 265. This culminated negotiations extending over a period of four years between the University of Texas and the War Assets Administration for a plant which was constructed at a cost of \$8,053,896.19, to produce magnesium for fire bombs. On September 21, 1946, under an interim permit, the University started operating the then-called Off-Campus Research Center under a lease agreement with the War Assets Administration. This lease provided for an option for purchase of the facilities under the provisions of the Surplus Property Act of 1944. This Act provided for the disposal of land and improvements which could be used for educational purposes.

APPLICATION FILED

On October 22, 1948, the University of Texas filed an application for title to the Magnesium Plant under the priority and public benefit provisions of the law. It was requested that the properties be conveyed to the University intact for use in its broad educational program, and a detailed proposal of need for the property in the University's educational and research program was presented. The responsibility of providing education and training for people of Texas is very great and the importance of research has grown in significance. It was possible to show that for the U. S. Government to invest these facilities in the educational program of the University was a far greater value than the dollar that would be derived from salvage.



RESEARCH CENTER DEED IN UT HANDS

The deed to the Memorial Research Center is shown here passing from the hands of the government into the hands of the University. The University has leased the land for the past three years. Pictured left to right in the above picture are: Congressman Homer Thornberry, J. Neils Thompson, director of the Research Center, President T. S. Painter, Colonel Karl E. Wallace, regional director of the General Services Administration, and Attorney E. L. Early, assistant regional counsel of GSA.

It was necessary for the University to show proof of need, to show suitability, to show evidence of ability

to operate and maintain, to show that the University was participating in the defense activities of our government, and to present a plan for permanent utilization.

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Cover Photo: Betty Wallace

Maxine Smith is shown receiving the first Mayotte Duffek Scholarship from Paul J. Thompson, head of the School of Journalism. President Painter stands to her left. This award was made possible by the members of Theta Sigma Phi in Dallas.

TRANSFER OF TITLE

The transfer of title provided for sale at a fair value with benefits to accrue to the United States, as determined on the basis of the Public Benefit Allowance Formulae, to be accepted in lieu of money. The property is to be utilized by the University for the purposes set forth in its proposal for a period of twenty years from the date of the conveyance. None of the property is to be sold or otherwise disposed of during

(RESEARCH . . . Continued on page 118)

Busy Balcones Pays Its Way In Public Benefits

Where research projects run the gamut from prehistoric discoveries to outer space exploration

In 1942 an undeveloped plot of land North of the city was made available to the government for use as a magnesium plant. Following the war in 1946, the 388-acre tract became available to The University of Texas. This opportunity presented itself at a time when the University was ripe for the expansion of its research facilities beyond the main campus.

This was the beginning of the Balcones Research Center, a division of The University of Texas which is primarily concerned with aiding the research phase of the University's broad educational program. On September 21, 1946, the University began operation of the Center under a lease with option to buy. In 1949, this option was exercised, bringing about an unusual business agreement between the University and the federal government. Title was conveyed in a contract which provides that the University shall make payments to the United States over a 20-year period in public benefits created by the use of the property, in lieu of cash.

Stipulations of this contract require that the property must be used to extend and develop the research functions of The University of Texas and that proof of such use be submitted in the form of an annual report to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In keeping with these requirements, the center issued its 17th Annual Report covering the activities of the year 1966 in November of 1967.

The basic function of the Balcones Research Center is to provide facilities and equipment for research and graduate-level experimentation and teaching for

the various departments of The University. The research accomplished in this way through government and private grants and contracts enables Balcones to keep abreast of its obligation to the government to benefit the public.

A recent listing shows the Center to have on its premises 88 different research laboratories ranging from aerospace structures and archeology through radiation biology and vision research. This head count of laboratories includes three which are actually a part of the Defense Research Laboratory, a separate, independent, and autonomous organization of The University of Texas which is also located on the Balcones tract.

Professor J. Neils Thompson, director of the center and professor of civil engineering, points out that the educational and research activities of the center are closely coordinated with related colleges and departments of the University. "An active research program is a valuable complement to the educational function of a university," he said. "The participation of graduate students in research makes their creative abilities and training available as a source of talent unique to university research. At the same time, research experience gained by the graduate student insures a future supply of scientists and engineers with advanced degrees."

A reference study on the research and development activity in Austin refers to the Balcones Research Center as the "nucleus of Austin's new R&D complex." The same report credits Professor Thompson as "prob-

ably the man most responsible for Austin's interest in R&D industries."

Despite its recognized significance to both the Austin community and the University, Balcones Research Center is not well known to those other than the personnel directly connected with its operations. It is the Cinderella-like relative of the University's Austin-based facilities. Though it is not widely known to many students of The University of Texas at Austin, Balcones Research Center has been instrumental in the conferring of 477 graduate degrees through its aid and supervision of specific laboratories and support facilities.

Recently this Cinderella found her glass slipper in the construction of its new Defense Research Laboratory building. The new building, located on the southeast corner of the main tract of the Research Center, has 128,000 square feet and cost \$1.3 million. Most of the activities of the DRL will be housed in this new building.

Laboratories and projects are in a dynamic state of change depending upon the funds and grants being made. Almost monthly a new roster of projects being carried on at the Center is published to keep up with changes being made as older projects are completed and new ones undertaken.

Significant ground research has been conducted by the Center with its large radio telescope being used in the investigation of millimeter wave lengths radiation from solar system bodies. This work has made it possible for scientists to design space experiments more precisely (See BALCONES Next Page)

CONSULTING — PROGRAMMING — SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

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Offices: 1405 Lavaca 477-9646

P.O. Box 12401 — Capitol Station — Austin, Texas

**the
last
word...**

... YOU'LL EVER HEAR FROM US IS, "ARE YOU COMPLETELY SATISFIED?" 'CAUSE IF YOU'RE NOT, WE DARN SURE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT. THAT'S BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN HAPPY CLIENTS.

WHEN YOU CONSIDER PHOTO SERVICES, REMEMBER WE PROVIDE COMPLETE SERVICES. LET PAK GET IN THE LAST WORD.



(BALCONES Continued)
than if they were starting out "blind."

To show that the Center's staff is really on top of its work, an eroded cliff in Port Lavaca left recently by Hurricane Beulah led two US scientists to investigate for possible fossil "finds." Dr. Ernest L. Lundelius, Jr., associate professor of geology who specializes in paleontology and staff member of the BRC Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory, identified the partial skeleton of an eremotherium, a giant ground sloth estimated to have lived 120,000 years ago. The skeleton is one of the most complete ever found in North America and is now part of an extensive research collection at Balcones maintained by Texas Memorial Museum and the UT Bureau of Economic Geology.

Another interesting project being conducted by the Center is being done by the Archeology-Salvage project laboratory. This involves the investigation of reservoir excavations for possible archeological clues to pre-history Texas. Most recent possibilities for investigation are 109 sites which are to be flooded when the reservoir is completed at Robert Lee on the upper Colorado River.

Engineering labs run the gamut from Civil and Electrical to Mechanical and Petroleum. In the biological sciences there are labs for Drug-Plastic Research & Toxicology, Plant Ecology, Radiation Biology, and Vision Research. Earth sciences include Mineral Studies, Well Sample & Core Library, Water Resources, and Geomagnetism. These labs and numerous other one-of-a-kind projects give Balcones Research Center a place in a who's who and what's what ranking in the area of research and development for this part of the country.

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J. J. PICKLE RESEARCH CAMPUS. The J. J. Pickle Research Campus of the University of Texas at Austin, formerly the Balcones Research Center, is located on a Missouri Pacific Railroad spur at a 475-acre site in the northwest part of Austin. Like many entities in Austin, the campus was named for the Balcones Escarpment,^{qv} which runs through the research center site. As a collaboration between government, academe, and industry to improve the United States technology base, the research community seeks to link public and private sectors to support excellence in science, engineering, and technology and foster efforts that can fuse research and development on the university campus and encourage the founding of private companies. As an industrial research park, the campus has been instrumental in the development of such Central Texas firms as Texas Nuclear, Tracor,^{qv} and Radian Corporation. The facility provides a center for civil, electronic, aerospace, mechanical, petroleum, and environmental-health engineering research, along with scientific research in botany, zoology, paleontology, nuclear physics, chemistry, psychology, atmospheric science, and archeology. Over the course of its history, it has been home to as many as seventy laboratories, a training site for scientists and engineers, and a place where chemists, physicists, and engineers are encouraged to conduct interdisciplinary research.

The current facility developed from a magnesium plant built by the federal government at the site during World War II^{qv} and operated by International Minerals and Chemical Corporation. After the war the federal government declared the plant surplus. In 1945 electrical engineering professor and assistant to the president C. Read Granberry and civil engineering professor J. Neils Thompson, acting together on behalf of the University of Texas, obtained a lease agreement with an option to purchase the plant from the War Assets Administration. The resulting agreement, completed in 1946, committed the university to use of the original 402 acres and twenty-nine buildings, representing a total of 216,000 square feet of space, to "extend and develop the research function of the University for the benefit of the public." The first component of the facility emerged from a National Defense Research Committee laboratory originally known as the War Research Laboratory or War Physics Laboratory, established at the University of Texas in 1942. Its original purpose was to solve problems relating to airborne gunfire control for the United States Air Force, specifically, to develop the means for testing aiming devices in airborne flexible gunnery systems and to improve aircraft gunsights for the B-29 bomber. Out of this project grew the Military Physics Research Laboratory, which was moved to the Balcones Research Center in 1946.

In 1949 the university negotiated a contract with the help of Congressman Lyndon B. Johnson^{qv} to purchase the property. The contract required the university to pay the government \$1,475,936 over a twenty-year period and to report regularly on its use of the site. Instead of cash payments, this amount would be discounted as the university produced public benefits in research and education. Initially designated the Off-Campus Research Center, the property was renamed Balcones Research Center in

1953 by Judge James P. Hart, first chancellor of the university.

In 1964 the Military Physics Research Laboratory merged with the Defense Research Laboratory, which had been developed on campus to work on radar, underwater acoustics, and surface-to-air guided missiles for the navy, and in 1968 the two were retitled the Applied Research Laboratories. With over 500 employees, this facility represented the largest activity at the center. Other early components included the Electrical Engineering Research Laboratory, which investigated the angle of arrival of radio waves for the United States Office of Scientific Research and Development during wartime, and the Nuclear Physics Research Laboratory, designed to study atomic structure and properties of matter, which later operated an atom smasher at the site. The Radiobiological Laboratory, a forerunner of the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (*see* AEROSPACE MEDICINE), evaluated the performance of animals under conditions of space flight. It is best remembered for raising and training a Rhesus monkey which, as the first animal in space in 1959, contributed to the study of long-term effects of exposure to radiation in space.

In 1971, having fulfilled the terms of the contract, the university obtained clear title to the property. The regents subsequently purchased an additional eighty-three acres adjacent to the west tract in 1974, and additional acreage that brought the total to 475 acres. The campus subsequently developed unique features for research and development, including a power supply exceeding that of the entire campus of the University of Texas in a single building. In 1986 the campus acquired a supercomputer named the "Santa Rita No. 2," based on predictions of its potential economic benefits for research (*see* SANTA RITA OIL WELL). At various times the campus has employed up to 1,000 people, comprised 100 buildings, and housed everything from energy research laboratories and earth sciences, water resources, structural research, and archeological research projects to art studios. The institution has worked on technology-transfer projects with a wide range of corporate and public interests, including Motorola, Texas Instruments,^{qv} Sandia National Laboratories, and Sematech.^{qv} Later planning included buildings to house the Bureau of Economic Geology and centers for energy studies, electromechanics, and fusion engineering. In the 1990s the campus housed the research facilities of Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation, a collaborative research effort of twenty high-technology computer and electronics firms involved in development of materials for semiconductors and optoelectronic devices.

In 1994, in honor of his ongoing efforts on behalf of the facility, the Balcones Research Center was renamed the J. J. Pickle Research Campus. Pickle included support for the center as a plank in his first congressional campaign and later served as chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

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