

# ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

**CASE NUMBER:** C14H-2010-0026

**HLC DATE:**

July 26, 2010

August 23, 2010

**PC DATE:**

December 14, 2010

**APPLICANT:** Zeta Tau Alpha House Corporation, owner

**HISTORIC NAME:** Zeta Tau Alpha House

**WATERSHED:** Shoal Creek

**ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE:** 2711 Nueces Street

**ZONING FROM:** MF-4-NP to MF-4-H-NP

**SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from multi-family – neighborhood plan (MF-4-NP) combining district to multi-family – historic landmark – neighborhood plan (MF-4-H-NP) combining district zoning.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:**

The ca. 1939 Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority House may meet the criteria for designation in the areas of architectural and historical significance as well as community value, but more information regarding the role of the sorority in the development of the University of Texas, the history of Austin, and the lives of the sorority sisters is necessary to make that determination. The house was designed by prominent local architectural firm Page and Southerland in 1929, and is an excellent example of large-scale Southern Colonial Revival styling. The Kappa chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha at the University of Texas has been in existence since 1905, and has included many prominent alumna, including Dr. May Agnes Hopkins of Houston, Roberta Crenshaw, and Lynda Byrd Johnson from 1962 to 1967.

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:** **July 26, 2010:** Postponed the case to August 23, 2010 at staff's recommendation. **August 23, 2010:** Recommended the proposed zoning change from MF-4-NP to MF-4-H-NP. Vote: 7-0.

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:** Recommended the proposed zoning change from MF-4-NP to MF-4-H-NP. Vote: 6-0 (Reddy, Hernandez, and Chimenti absent).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The house is not listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

**CITY COUNCIL DATE:** January 27, 2011

**ACTION:** Approved the proposed zoning change on first reading only. Vote: 5-0 (Martinez and Cole off-dais).

February 10, 2010

**ORDINANCE READINGS:** 1<sup>ST</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup>

**ORDINANCE NUMBER:**

**CASE MANAGER:** Steve Sadowsky

**PHONE:** 974-6454

**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:** University Area Partners

**BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:****Architecture:**

Two-and-a-half story T-plan brick-veneered Southern Colonial Revival-styled sorority house. The house has a parapetted hipped-roof on the rectangular central block and a rear-gabled extension from the center of the central block. Five gabled dormers pierce the front of the roof. The house has a central, partial-width full-height independent porch on monumental square wood posts with plain capitals and matching pilasters at the point where the porch connects back to the central block of the house. The porch has an ornamental wood balustrade across the front and sides. Fenestration consists of 9:9 windows on the first floor and 6:6 windows on the second floor with a round, fixed-sash window on the second floor in the section of the central block extending beyond the front porch and modern replacement windows in the gabled dormers. A one-story, irregular-plan garden room on the rear of the house nestled between the central block and the rear-gabled extension. The central entry is framed with a transom and sidelights, with a broken pediment above.

**Historical Associations:**

The Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority was founded at the Virginia State Normal School in Farmville, Virginia in 1898. The University of Texas Kappa chapter was established in 1905, and first located at 2408 Whitis Avenue. Around 1912, the sorority moved to 1811 Colorado Street, where they stayed until 1924. By 1927, they had purchased a house and the land at 2711 Nueces Street and contracted with the prominent local firm of Page and Southerland to design a new sorority house on the site. In the interim, the sorority moved to a house at 2700 Guadalupe Street. Page and Southerland completed the plans in 1929, but it was not until 1939 that the sorority had purchased the adjacent lots and amassed the funds to construct the house. The original 1929 Page and Southerland plans were revised at that time; the original plans showed the same style and configuration of the house, but more ornately detailed with Corinthian columns, additional pilasters, keystones over the windows, and other details that were not included in the final plans and construction of the house. Ernest Parker, a prominent local builder, constructed the house as well as several later additions.

The sorority continued to grow and play an active role in the lives of female students at the University of Texas. The chapter included many prominent students at the University, including Dr. May Agnes Hopkins, a founding member, who was the only female in her class at UTMB, and the first female physician to establish a medical practice in Dallas. Dr. Hopkins served as the sorority's national president during World War II. Anita Goeth, another founding member, married R. Niles Graham and with him, helped develop the Enfield subdivision. Roberta Crenshaw served as sorority president in the 1930s and later served on the Austin Parks Board; she led the movement to restore the Paramount Theater, was a founder and first president of the Austin Ballet Society, and was a charter member of the Women's Symphony League of Austin; she was also instrumental in founding the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and the Austin History Center. Perhaps the most prominent Zeta was Lynda Byrd Johnson, the daughter of then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson, who entered UT in the fall of 1962 and graduated in 1967. Lynda Johnson had a room on the first floor of the house because of the necessity of stationing secret service agents by her due to her father's position. At that time, the secret service agents were all male, so Lynda had to be separated from the rest of the sisters because of her in-house male coterie. Lynda Johnson was voted the Zeta's Outstanding Alumna in 1998. The sorority has also been involved with the Austin Race for the cure for breast cancer.

**PARCEL NO.:** 02150208150000

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Lots 6, 7, 8, and 9, Block 1, Outlot 63, Division D.

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT:** \$ 21,406 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$5,224 (capped at ½ city taxes).

**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$2,478,907

**PRESENT USE:** Sorority house

**CONDITION:** Excellent

**PRESENT OWNERS:**

Zeta Tau Alpha House Corporation  
2711 Nueces Street  
Austin, Texas 78705

**DATE BUILT:** ca. 1939

**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** Brick carports and a storage building were designed by Page and Southerland and constructed by Ernest Parker in 1945; the kitchen was altered and enlarged in a 1956 Page Southerland Page design, also constructed by Ernest Parker. Jessen, Jessen, Millhouse and Greeven designed the one-story rear garden room in 1964; Leon Chandler designed alterations to the garden room and kitchen in 1975. A window in the dormer has been replaced with a modern unit with snap-in muntins and mullions; it is not noticeable from the street.

**ORIGINAL OWNER(S):** Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority (1927)

**OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS:** None.

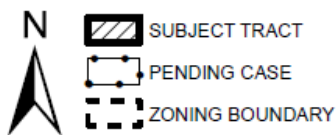








# LOCATION MAP



## HISTORIC ZONING

ZONING CASE#: C14H-2010-0026  
 LOCATION: 2711 NUECES ST  
 GRID: J24  
 MANAGER: S. SADOWSKY



This map has been produced by the Communications Technology Management Dept. on behalf of the Planning Development Review Dept. for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

## A. APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC ZONING

OK to go  
SS  
6-3-10

### PROJECT INFORMATION:

#10450604

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY	
APPLICATION DATE: <u>6-9-10</u>	FILE NUMBER(S): <u>C14H-2010-0086</u>
TENTATIVE HLC DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE PC or ZAP DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE CC DATE: _____	
CASE MANAGER: <u>S. Sachdevsky</u>	CITY INITIATED: YES / <u>NO</u>
APPLICATION ACCEPTED BY: <u>E. Kames</u>	ROLLBACK: YES/NO

### BASIC PROJECT DATA:

1. OWNER'S NAME:	<u>Zeta Tau Alpha House Corporation</u>
2. PROJECT NAME:	<u>The Zeta Tau Alpha House</u>
3. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (or Range):	<u>2711 Nueces St.</u>
ZIP	<u>78705</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 _____
(ROAD NAME PROPERTY FRONTS ONTO), WHICH IS	
APPROXIMATELY _____	DISTANCE FROM ITS
INTERSECTION WITH _____	CROSS STREET.

### AREA TO BE REZONED:

4. ACRES	<u>.8953</u>	(OR)	SQ.FT.	_____	
5. ZONING AND LAND USE INFORMATION:					
EXISTING ZONING	EXISTING USE	TRACT# (IF MORE THAN 1)	ACRES / SQ. FT.	PROPOSED USE	PROPOSED ZONING
<u>MF-4-NP</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>MF-4-NP-H</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

### RELATED CURRENT CASES:

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

SCANNED

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (SUBDIVISION REFERENCE OR METES AND BOUNDS):

10a. SUBDIVISION REFERENCE: Name: OLT 63 Division D  
Block(s) 1 Lot(s) 6-9 Outlot(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Plat Book: \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
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. 02 1502 0815 0000

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: K. Mahmoud NAME: Kelly Mahmoud  
FIRM NAME: Beta Tau Alpha Sorority TELEPHONE NUMBER: 382-6097  
STREET ADDRESS: 2711 Nueces  
CITY: Austin STATE: TX ZIP CODE: 78703  
EMAIL ADDRESS: Kmahmoud@AustinRR.com

AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

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

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY: \_\_\_\_\_

SCANNED



## 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.

S. Deaderick 6-4-10  
Signature Date

Suzanne Deaderick  
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.

K. Mahmud 6-4-10  
Signature Date

Kelly Mahmud  
Name (Typed or Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Firm (If applicable)

SCANNED

## E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

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

I, Suzanne Deadericks 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

2711 Nueces  
(Address or Legal Description)  
Austin, Tx. 78705

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.

S Deaderick  
(Applicant's signature)

6-4-10  
(Date)

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

NO 1055571

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 02-1502-0815-0000

PROPERTY OWNER:

ZETA TAU ALPHA  
2711 NUECES ST  
AUSTIN, TX 78705-4087

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

LOT 6-9 BLK 1 OLT 63 DIVISION D

ACRES .0000 MIN% .000000000000 TYPE

SITUS INFORMATION: 2711 NUECES ST

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
2009	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 2009 \$55,037.87

ALL TAXES PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2009 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 05/25/2010

Fee Paid: \$10.00

Nelda Wells Spears  
Tax Assessor-Collector

By: 

Chronological Listing of Owners/Occupants  
2711 Nueces

City Directory Research  
May 2010

- 1912        House at 2711 Nueces was owned by G.W. Beakley  
              An ad in the newspaper listed the house for sale "on account of leaving the city"  
              Note: The Zeta House was listed at 1811 Colorado
- 1918        House at 2711 Nueces was owned by J.P. Lightfoot and Fredonia  
              Note: The Zeta House was listed at 1811 Colorado
- 1920-24     Zeta House is listed at 1811 Colorado
- 1927        Zeta House is listed at 2700 Guadalupe  
              Note: A.D. Murphree is the resident at 2711 Nueces
- 1929        Zeta Tau Alpha-new owners of 2711 Nueces  
              Note: Alec D. Murphree residence is 2809 Guadalupe  
                      Construction Engineer
- 1932-present    Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority House
-



## Deed Chronology 2711 Nueces

Transaction	Volume/Page	Date
Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Devereux to Zeta Tau Alpha Association, Kappa Building Chapter (Lots 6 & 7 in block 1, Outlet 63)	405/166	6-22-1927
Estate of Mary Emma Peacock to Zeta Tau Alpha, Kappa Building Chapter (West 100 ft. of lots 8 & 9 in block 1, Outlet 63)	569/472	9-8-1937
Thomas B. and Emma Leata Stephens to Zeta Tau Alpha Association (46.5 feet by 102.5 feet of lots 8 and 9 in Block 1)	816/26	7-3-1945

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### **The History of Kappa Chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority** **University of Texas**

Zeta Tau Alpha was founded October 25, 1898 by nine women at the State Female Normal School (now Longwood University) in Farmville, Va. The Kappa Chapter at the University of Texas was established in 1906, and was the fourth sorority established at U.T.

Many former Zetas from the Kappa Chapter, including several founding members, became prominent Texans and national figures.

#### ***Prominent Zetas***

- Dr. May Agnes Hopkins was a founding member of the chapter. She became the first woman physician to establish a medical practice in Dallas. Dr. Hopkins graduated from the University of Texas Medical School in 1911, the only woman in her class. She opened her practice in

pediatrics in 1912 but then traveled to France as a Red Cross volunteer in World War I. There, she treated nearly 1000 soldiers a day during the battle of Chateau-Thierry. After the war, she remained in France to care for children. On her return to Dallas, her many accomplishments included maintaining a thriving pediatric endocrinology practice, teaching at Baylor University College of Medicine, and helping to organize the Children's Clinic at Baylor Hospital. She also examined children in juvenile court and lectured on social and child welfare. In 1956, the *Dallas Times Herald* featured “busy” Dr. Hopkins.



Dr. Hopkins served as ZTA’s National President while serving in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War II. Dr. Hopkins attributed her many accomplishments to her experience during the war.

- Anita Laura Goeth (1889-1953) was a founding member of the chapter at U.T. Anita was the daughter of A. C. Goeth and granddaughter of Walter Tips, both well-known Austinites. Her father, Adolph Carl, joined the Walter Tips business in Austin as an employee in 1884, within time becoming the general manager and in 1914 president of the corporation. Mr. Goeth was president of the Austin Chamber of Commerce, a director at Austin National Bank, and President of the Board of Regents of the Texas State Normal. He also became a member of the Tips family with his 1887 marriage to Walter Tips’ eldest daughter, Julia. Julia was a close friend of Elizabet Ney, and for years after the artist’s death she took over the care of Miss Ney’s home and kept it open to the public until a curator could be employed. Julia was one of the founders and a charter member of the Texas Fine Arts Association, organized in 1929. For six years she was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Austin Public Schools, and served as secretary from 1917 to 1921. Julia was active in organizing the Austin Woman’s Club, was a charter member, and among the first of its patron members. Much of her valuable contribution to the civic life of Austin was made through her membership in the American History Club. Anita married R. Niles Graham on January 4, 1910. Niles and Anita lived at Woodlawn, also known as the Pease Mansion. The original estate was around 3,000 acres, bounded by what is now West 12th Street on the south, on the east by Shoal Creek, on the north by what is now West 24th Street, and on the west by the approximate line of Exposition Boulevard. Governor Pease donated 22 acres along Shoal Creek to the City of Austin in 1875, now Pease Park. R. Niles donated another four acres before developing Enfield. The family resided in the mansion, built in 1853 Abner Cook, until 1956 when Governor and Mrs. Allan Shivers purchased the property. R. Niles and Anita Graham had three children: Marshall Pease II (1911-1977), Thomas Adolf Goeth (1912-1983), and Julie Anita (1923-1987). Marshall

Pease II, who was named for R. Niles' brother who had died at age 35 in 1910, became a lawyer. Thomas established an insurance agency, Graham-Lundgren & Company, in Austin. Julie Anita, called "Rabbit" by her parents, attended Austin High School and the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority; she graduated in 1944 with a B.A. in English. On April 20, 1945, she married James William Harman (1922-?), from Welch, West Virginia. After living in Fort Worth for a short time, they moved to Richmond, Virginia, where James worked as a newspaper journalist, before returning to live in Austin around 1950. Julie and James had two children, Margaret Graham (1947- ), who as a child was called "Graham", and Douglas Marshall (1948- ). While in Austin, Julie Anita Graham played an active role in a number of civic groups. Later in her life, she was involved in historic preservation. In addition to several other groups, Julie was especially active in the Volunteer Council for the Austin State Hospital where she designed activities to brighten the lives of "crippled children." Documents relating to Julie Harman's membership in the Texas chapter of the Colonial Dames of America include a creative work about the restoration of the Neill Cochran House and photocopies of articles gathered in researching how the Colonial Dames of Texas contributed to the naming of the Official Flower of the State of Texas, the bluebonnet. Also included are copies of an article written by Ethel Mary Franklin [Smith], who was Julie's father's cousin, a fellow Colonial Dame, and a celebrated citizen of Austin. While a student at the University of Texas, Julie was a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. A sorority publication from 1954 includes an obituary for Julie's mother, Anita Goeth Graham, also a member of the organization. Inserted into the publication are two items: a typewritten resolution in memory of Anita from fellow members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Good Shepherd Church of Austin, and an undated manuscript in Anita's hand. R. Niles Graham's personality shines through in the loving letters he wrote to his wife, Anita, while Mr. Graham traveled around Texas for his oil business. These letters (1911-1920, 61 items) are contained in the Anita Goeth Graham series (1911-1953, 93 items). This series also documents Anita Graham's work for the blind and her close relationship to her family. Especially rich sources of information are her address and birthday books, which are heavily annotated and packed with enclosures. The Mr. and Mrs. R. Niles Graham series (1917-1966) consists of 18 items that are mainly invitations for social events.

- Anita's sister, Carrie Goeth Etnyre, was also a founding member of the U.T. chapter of ZTA.
- In 1962, U.T. freshman Lynda Bird Johnson, the eldest of two daughters, pledged Zeta. At that time, her father was serving as the 37th Vice President of the United States. The following year, after the death of John F. Kennedy, President Johnson would take office as the 36th President of the United States. In those days, there were no women in the Secret Service. Therefore, Lynda Johnson had a separate room from the other girls on the lower floor of the Zeta House so that the Secret Service could be housed in a rather large closet next door to her. These are Lynda's memories shared in July of 2010:

"As you know I spoke at the Zeta House celebrating our 100th birthday. I even got one of my Secret Service men to tell tales about my days in the

house. I was living in Kinsolving when my father became president and for a short time my Secret Service stayed there in a room with glass windows on the first floor so they could see everyone who came or left. I moved into the Zeta house for my senior year Fall 1965 and Spring 1966. They did have a command post in a small room next to mine on the first floor. I shared that room with Warrie Lynn Smith Price and Diane Reilly Allison. I slept on the one bed and they slept on the sleeping porch but we shared closet space, drawers and desks as I remember, as well as cubby holes, cabinets in the room and the bathroom.”

Lynda finished her four years at U.T. and the Zeta House in 1967. After college, Lynda worked for McCall’s magazine. She married Marine Captain Charles S. Robb in the East Room of the White House in 1967. Her husband served with distinction in Vietnam. Charles Robb later became Lieutenant Governor of Virginia (1978–1982), making her Second Lady of Virginia. Later, Robb became Governor of Virginia, making her First Lady of Virginia. He also served as a two-term U.S. Senator from the state of Virginia.

Lynda Bird Johnson Robb served as chairman of the board of Reading is Fundamental, the nation's largest children's literacy organization, from 1996 to 2001. She continues to serve the organization as Chairman *emerita*. From 1969 to 1981, she was a contributing editor to *Ladies Home Journal* magazine. She serves on the Board of Directors of the LBJ Foundation and was on the the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and is a founding member of RIF. Lynda holds Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Washington and Lee University and Norwich University, and has been honored with a plethora of civic awards for her public service.

Lynda was selected as the 1998 Outstanding Alumna for Zeta Tau Alpha.

- Former First Lady of Texas and philanthropist Janie Briscoe, wife of former Governor Dolph Briscoe
- Roberta Crenshaw served as president of Zeta Tau Alpha while at U.T. in the 1930s, and later served on the Austin Parks Board from 1952-1970. She helped form the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, helped restore Austin's Paramount Theatre on Congress Avenue, was a founder and first President of the Austin Ballet Society, and was a charter member of the Women's Symphony League who helped establish the Laguna Gloria Art Museum. She served on the boards of the Austin Symphony, Laguna Gloria, and the Paramount. Roberta was a friend and patron to sculptor Charles Umlauf, and her leadership raised the private funds to build a museum for the Umlauf Sculpture Garden in Zilker Garden. She was on the the founders of the Austin History Center and leader of the Austin Heritage Society.



- Eloise Engle Thornberry, wife of Congressman William H. Thornberry, served as first vice-president of the Congressional Club during her last year in Washington. This club is composed of wives of members of Congress (House and Senate) and Cabinet wives. She also served as president of the 31st Congressional Club and as vice president of an International Group, composed of wives of diplomats of foreign nations and Congressional wives. She was chosen Austin "Woman of the Year" in 1962 by the Austin Business and Professional Women's Club, and was elected in 1965 to serve on the Ex-Students' Council of the University of Texas, serving until 1980. In 1965, at the request of President Lyndon B. Johnson, she was appointed to a National Advisory Board in connection with establishing a Technical Institute for the Deaf. Other appointments included the national advisory committee for the education of the deaf, a four-year term on the national advisory group for the newly established National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, and an eight-year term on the board of trustees of the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- Dr. Jean Andrews, who served on the advisory boards of both the School of Human Ecology and the College of Natural Sciences at the University of Texas, donated portions of her vast collection to museums and archives at U.T. The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History holds her writings and the Texas Memorial Museum houses her collections of shells. Dr. Andrews is the author of several books.
- Betty Nguyen, formerly the morning anchor of *CNN Newsroom's* Weekend Edition and a regular correspondent for other programs on the network, is currently an anchor on the CBS Early Show. Nguyen was born in Saigon, just before the Communist takeover. Her family moved to the U.S. and lived in a refugee camp before settling in a home in Texas. Nguyen was a Zeta at U.T. and was chosen as an outstanding Young Texas Ex.
- Warrie Lynn Smith Price, who lived with Lynda Johnson in the Zeta House, has recently been responsible for spearheading the renovation of Battery Park in New York City.
- Sandy Cornyn was a Zeta at U.T. and is the wife of current US Senator John Cornyn, a member of the Republican Leadership in the Senate.
- Shirley Moore Green graduated in 1956. After years of volunteer work for the GOP, she joined the staff of George Bush for President in 1979-80, and became his deputy press secretary for the general election of Reagan-Bush. Shirley stayed in that position at the White House, was acting press secretary in 1993, and did press advance or accompanied him to about 60 countries. At the end of 1995, she went to NASA Headquarters in Washington as director of public affairs for three years. When Bush was elected president in 1988, Shirley returned to the White House and was deputy assistant to the President for presidential correspondence and messages. After returning to Texas in 1996, she was on the staff of Gov. George W. Bush until he left for DC, and then Attorney General John Cornyn until he left for DC.

- Alice Davey Schroeder became a U.T. Zeta in 1976 and graduated with a BBA in 1978 and an MBA in 1980. She was a former analyst with Morgan Stanley and is the best selling author of The Snowball, Warren Buffet and The Business of Life which was released in September 2008. The book was on the NY Times Best Seller list for about 6 weeks in 2008. Schroeder has spoken at the Texas Book Festival (fall 2008) and University of Texas Business School Distinguished Speaker Series (fall 2009). She was featured in The Alcalde about her book, as well as on the front cover and leading story in The McCombs School of Business magazine. She and her husband reside in Greenwich, Connecticut where she is writing for Bloomberg News and also working on a new book. While an active Zeta she was on the Executive Board in 1977-78 as Historian.

### ***History of the Zeta House***

The first house known as the University of Texas Zeta House was located at 2403 Whitis Avenue. The girls resided in this house until around 1912, when they moved to 1811 Colorado. This would serve as their house for the next 15 or so years before moving to 2700 Guadalupe for a short time around 1927.

On June 22, 1927, the Zetas purchased the house and land then known as 2711 Nueces (lots 6 & 7). Plans were soon begun to build a new house, but the acquisition of the two adjoining lots (8 & 9), then known as 2715 Nueces, was necessary in order to build the large house that they envisioned. Planning for the future, the Zetas contracted with Page Southerland architectural firm to design a Greek Revival style house, even though they did not yet have enough land on which to build it. Page Southerland finished the plans on January 24, 1929.

These plans were stored away for what turned out to be eight years.

Finally, the opportunity to purchase the west 100 feet of lots 8 and 9 from the estate of Mary Emma Peacock arose, and on September 8, 1937, the purchased was finalized. Ten years after Page Southerland had drawn the original design for the new house, the plans were revised (by Page Southerland), and a building permit was issued by the City of Austin on March 9, 1939 to build a 'two story brick veneer chapter house'. The house was built by Ernest Parker.

While there was now ample room on the property to build the house, the Zetas saw the need to own the remainder of lots 8 and 9 (46.5 feet in the back). That purchase took place in July of 1945. Three years later, another building permit was issued to build "brick car ports and storage.' The plans were drawn by Page Southerland and the work was once again done by Ernest Parker for \$8,492.

In 1947, the Zetas hired noted landscape architect C. Coatsworth Pinkney to design the landscaping for their large, beautiful grounds.

August of 1956 had Page Southerland back at work with designs for altering the kitchen and pantry. Again, Ernest Parker was the builder on the project.

As the Zeta chapter grew, there was a need for more room. The architectural firm of Jessen, Jessen, Millhouse and Greeven was hired to design a Garden Room on the back of the house along with alterations to the house. Plans were finished in June of 1964. Ernest Parker was most likely the builder for this addition, as another building permit in 1965 was issued for him to enclose the rear porch for \$600.

Again in 1975, the Zetas were in need of additional space. Architect Leon Chandler drew up the plans for alterations to the Garden Room and an addition to the kitchen.

Interior Architectural Design Services was hired to redecorate the interior of the house in 1997.

### ***Other Charitable Contributions:***

Zeta was one of the main sponsors for the Austin Race for the Cure 20 years ago when the race was only in a few cities. The race was small and took place on campus. Zeta has remained a sponsor of the race even though the race has grown significantly. They sponsor the survivor tent each year. Survivors can come and have a special breakfast at the tent, pick up pink ribbons and complete signs for their shirt that says that they are running in celebration or memory of someone.

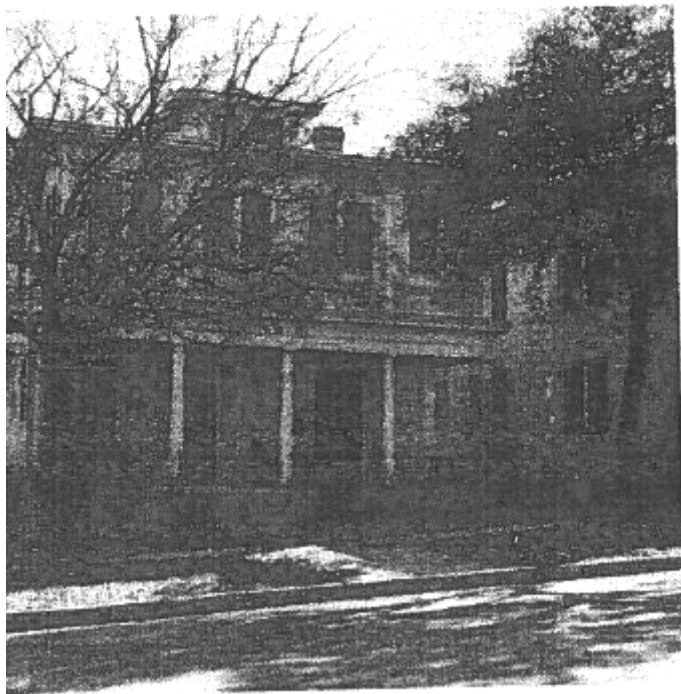
Breast cancer awareness and education became the national philanthropy about 20 years ago. The girls hold a golf tournament and dinner that raised \$40,000 last year. The alums also have a celebration of life luncheon that also raises about \$40,000 each year.

Before breast cancer, the philanthropy was the Association of Retarded Citizens.

Zeta House 1912-1924

Delta Phi Epsilon House 1940-48

1811 Colorado



House Cactus '40

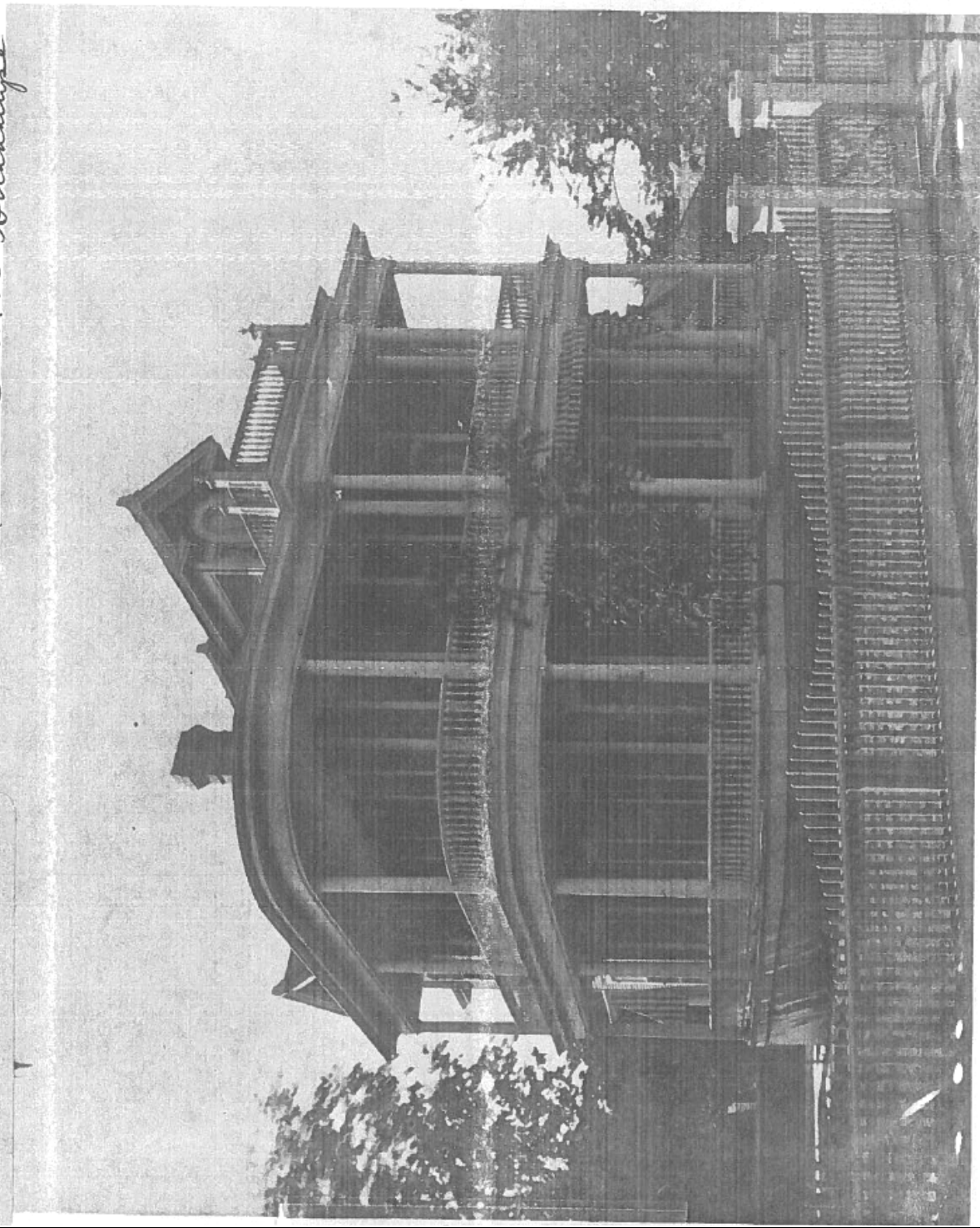
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HB - Catalpa  
I.I. 02628

2700 (Demolished)

1927 Zea House @ 2700 Catalpa





Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity House, Owners.  
Painted By Ted Arner 1932.

CACTUS 1931

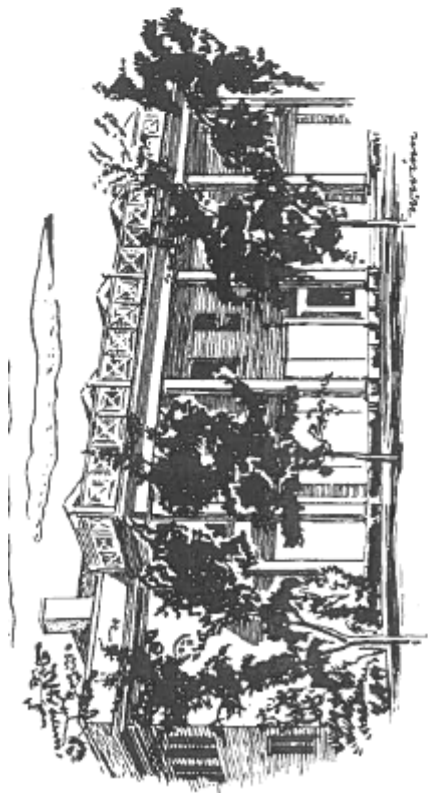


## ZETA TAU ALPHA



Founded October 25, 1898, Virginia State Normal  
Kappa Established May, 1905  
Sixty National Chapters

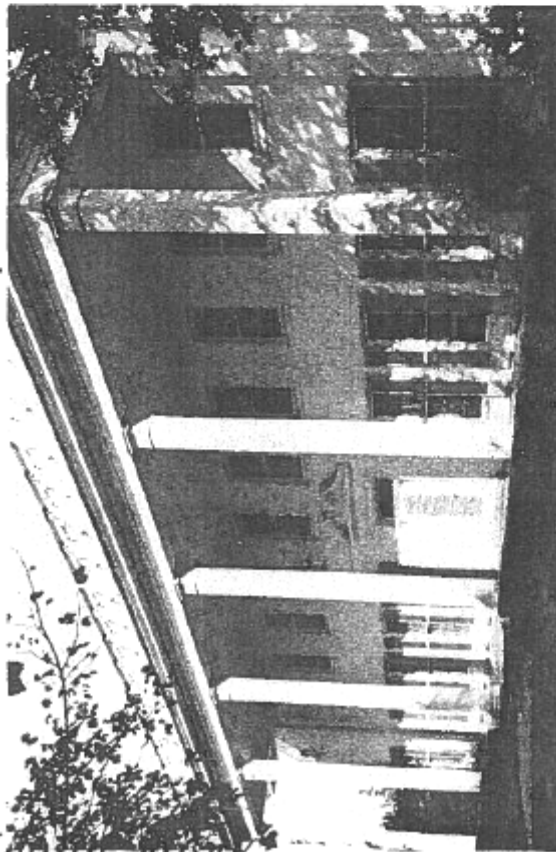
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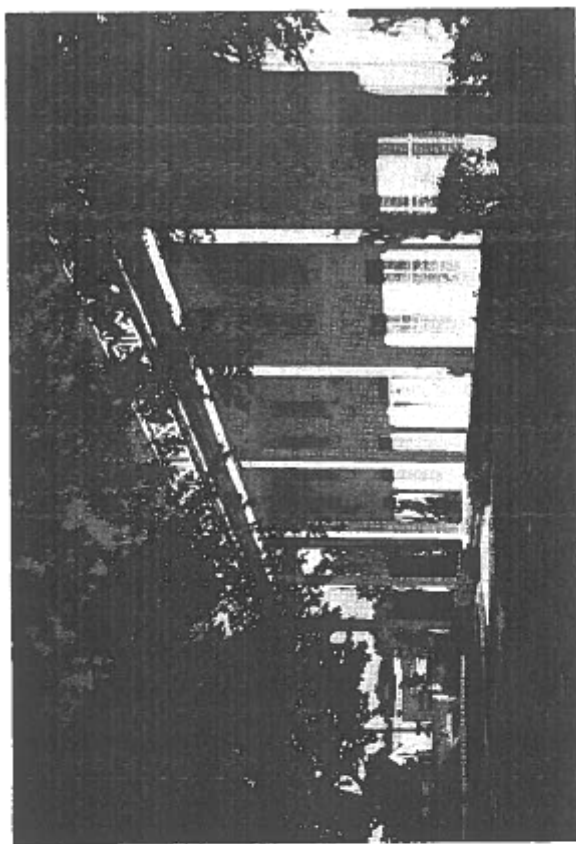
# ZETA TAU ALPHA

Austin History Center

1956



1959





## Page Southerland Page

**W**ITH ITS ROOTS IN THE 1932 PARTNERSHIP between Louis Charles Page, Jr., (1909-1981) and Louis Southerland (b. 1906) the firm of Page Southerland Page has developed into one of Austin's most prolific and influential firms.

The son of Louis Page (who was a principal in the firm of Page Brothers), Louis C. Page, Jr., received his bachelor's degree in architecture from UT (1929) and his master's degree from MIT (1931). After studying for a summer at the architecture program in Fontainebleau, he returned to Austin to work as an intern with his father at Page Brothers.

Louis E. Southerland also studied architecture at UT but transferred to MIT, where he received his bachelor's degree in architecture (1930). In 1932, he returned to Texas to establish a firm with Louis Page, Jr., in Tyler. Despite the booming oil economy, however, Page and Southerland were forced to close the Tyler office in 1933. Page returned to Austin to teach at the School of Architecture at UT; Southerland moved to San Antonio, where he worked for the Army at Fort Sam Houston and in the office of Ralph Cameron.

Page and Southerland reopened their office in 1935 in Austin, landing several contracts for school projects across the state, including one in Southerland's hometown, Trenton. As the firm developed a close working relationship with the Public Works Administration, they received the commission to construct the Rosewood Housing Project (1938), the first such "shum clearance" project in the United States. George Matthew Page (b. 1915), Louis's younger brother, joined the firm in 1939 following his graduation from UT (1937) and an extended study tour of Europe (1937-39). The firm designed a number of buildings, including the Municipal Building for Austin (1936), Brackenridge Hospital (1940), and, in the moderne style, the Tribune Office Building (1940).

Following the Second World War, Page Southerland Page developed real-estate subdivisions to foster work after the war. The practice increasingly focused on institutional projects, including hospitals, schools, and civic buildings. As a result, the firm decided to incorporate a team of engineers to coordinate the technical aspects of their projects. This successful strategy continues to serve the firm well as Page Southerland Page has developed one of the largest practices in Texas. Among the firm's more well-known projects are Palmer Auditorium (1959), City National Bank Building (1971), Page Southerland Page Office Building (1974), and the Inter-First Bank at Oak Hill (1986).

A charter member of TSA and the organization's first secretary-treasurer, Louis C. Page, Jr., was elected a Fellow of the AIA in 1963. Louis Southerland was elected a Fellow in 1956 and served the profession in various offices, including president of the Central Texas Chapter of the AIA.

*Bruce Jensen*

# Face lift for history

*Austin builder, 90, directs firm's efforts to help restore fine homes*

By ROBERT CULLICK  
American-Statesman Staff

Ernest Parker, who built some of the finest homes in Austin, is busy restoring them today.

Parker, 90, has been a builder since 1923. He built the home of Herbert Bohn, 1301 W. 29th St., the Smith home at 3600 Balcones Drive, the Zeta Tau Alpha and Delta Gamma sorority houses near the University of Texas and many of the fine homes in the Enfield area.

On his 90th birthday Friday, he remembered the special delights and frustrations that accompanied each house, the original owner and the street address.

He has no favorite projects. "I enjoyed them all," he said.

An accident grounded him 2½ years ago, but he manages his construction firm from his home in Hyde Park. He built the home, including his beloved Oak Room, with polished floors and oak paneling. He also built all the homes on adjacent lots.

"I'VE NEVER HAD TO so much as adjust a door, and I've never heard of anyone having any trouble with a house he built," said his wife, Dee.

The Ernest Parker Construction Co. restored the Walker Tipton Mansion for Franklin Savings, modeled the Governor's Mansion in the 1960s and is restoring a mansion at 14th Street and West Avenue. Parker has received recognition from the Heritage Society of Austin and the Centennial Award of the Austin chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Parker's memory of construction has helped in



Ernest Parker manages his construction firm from his home in Hyde Park.

discovering the actual profiles of old buildings, said architect John Klein. Once, Klein said, Parker remembered that he had lived across from a building Klein was restoring in West Austin.

PARKER'S MEMORY AND old photographs helped the architect determine what the original building looked like.

Raymond Champion, a master craftsman who has worked for Parker since 1935, said of him: "He's a very fine gentleman. He couldn't be beat. He always stressed good quality. He always said, 'Don't be ashamed of it.'"

Foreman George Weise has been with Parker for 22 years and said he is "a very understanding man."

"He may get a little upset if you make a mistake," Weise said. "But he's an all-around great fellow. He's an excellent craftsman. He requires precision work."

Parker was still doing 50 chinups a day and working 20-hour days when a gust of wind slammed a door and threw him off a ladder 2½ years ago. The fall broke seven ribs and injured his vertebrae, but his handshake is firm.

PARKER HAS SAID he thinks home construction has suffered from too much speed since the end of World War II.

"Back when I started we had plenty of time," Parker said.

Recently, an architect restoring a 1935 home found a piece of wood that designated the home as Ernest Parker's 125th house. Parker remembered the house.

"It had a terrible foundation. We had to dig down nine feet by hand through the darn clay," he recalled.

"I could tell you about a lot of houses," Parker said. "In a period of time, I could tell you about a lot of houses."