

## ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

**CASE NUMBER:** C14H-2015-0152

**HLC DATE:**

January 25, 2016

**PC DATE:**

**APPLICANTS:** Blake and Julie Bergstrom, owners

**HISTORIC NAME:** Hoefgen-Wilson-Ransom House

**WATERSHED:** Shoal Creek

**ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE:** 1610 Watchhill Road

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

**SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff is hesitant to recommend historic zoning for this house because of the architectural changes to the façade, but recognizes that the house has great significance for its historical associations, so staff will recommend the proposed zoning change from single family residence (SF-3) district to single family residence – Historic Landmark (SF-3-H) combining district zoning.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:**

Architecture and historical associations.

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:**

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:**

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

**CITY COUNCIL DATE:**

**ACTION:**

**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:** Old Enfield

**BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

**Architecture:**

The house is a two-story Colonial Revival house with a central entry and symmetrical façade. The house has a slightly projecting bay on the left side of the principal block, topped with a front-facing gable; otherwise the house is side-gabled. The front entry is framed with a paneled surround and a broken pediment above the door; windows are single 1:1 with 6:6 wooden screens. The house has aluminum siding. The house was designed by Page and Southerland, one of the city's pre-eminent architectural firms. The drawings for this house are at the Austin History Center, and show a different treatment for the front entry, as well as a French door where the right front ground-floor window is currently located. The photograph of the house from the Austin Gossip Digest of 1939 also show that the front entry and right front window have been changed.



1610 Watchhill Road – Hoefgen-Wilson-Ransom House



Current entry to the house

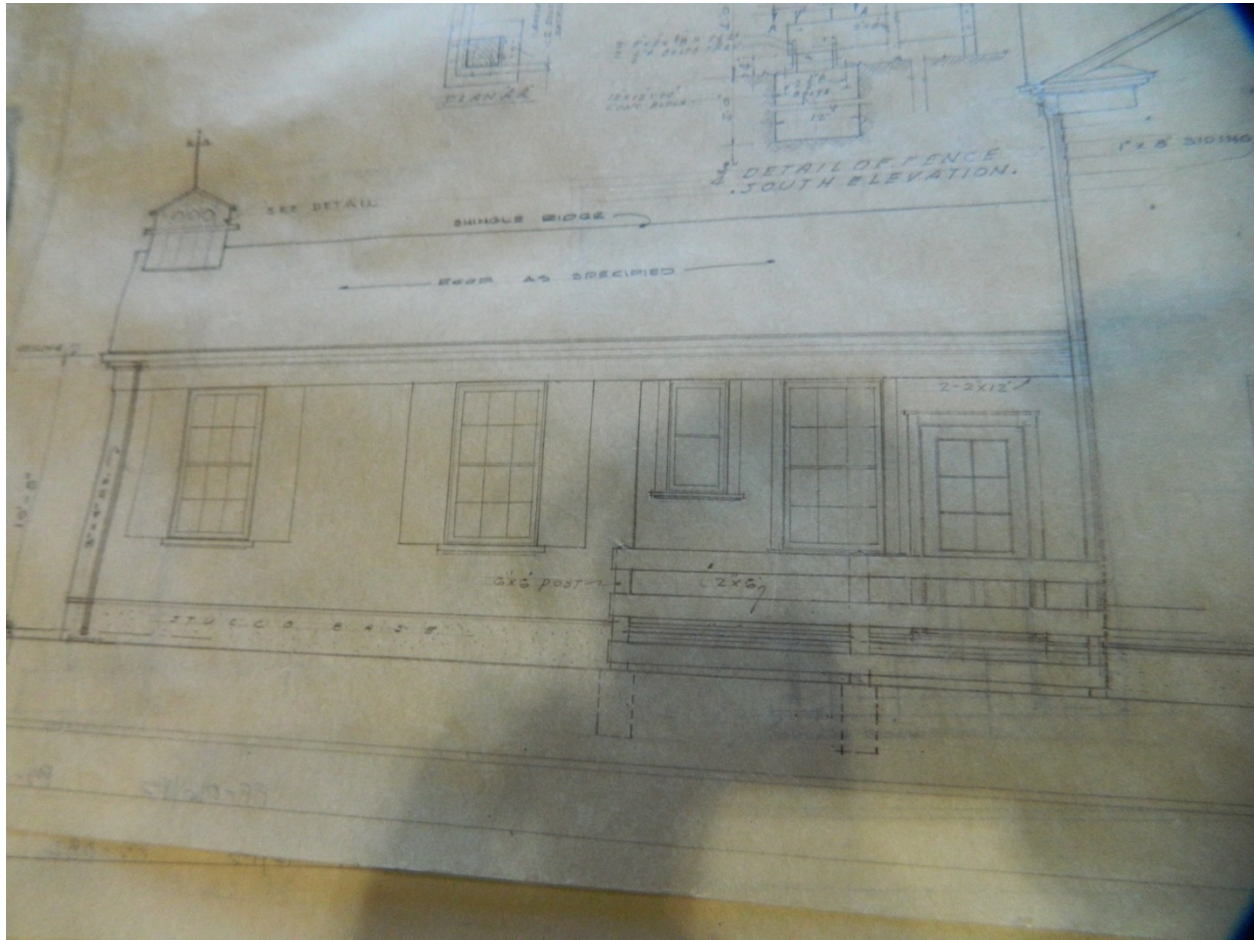


Close-up of the front door and right bay from the original architectural drawings for this house (Austin History Center architectural archives)





Front of the house from the original Page and Southerland drawings (Austin History Center architectural archives)



The as-designed side porch, now enclosed – from Austin History Center architectural archives

The firm of Page and Southerland was well-known for their residential house designs and studied renditions of the period styles of the day. Colonial Revival was the most popular style of the early- to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and had many variations, even in Austin. Colonial Revival design drew on the proud past of the United States, especially in the days of the Great Depression on the 1930s. This house, with its symmetrical façade and use of Colonial architectural elements, is a good adaptation of the tenets of Colonial Revival design; the slightly projecting front-gabled bay is somewhat of an anomaly to Colonial Revival design, but variations such as this were certainly not uncommon as the popularity of the style increased in the 1930s and into the 1940s. The modifications, such as the addition of the broken pediment over the door, and the paneled door surround, while not original to the design of the house, are in keeping with its Colonial Revival design.

#### **Historical Associations:**

This house has very significant associations, primarily as its status as the home of University of Texas presidents. The house was originally built for a businessman, Harold Hoefgen, and his wife, Faye, who lived here until 1953. Harold Hoefgen was the manager of the Gugenheim-Goldsmith Company, one of the city's largest wholesale fruits and produce businesses. Hoefgen was born in 1898 in San Antonio and died in Austin in 1986. He later started his own company, which was more of a beer distributorship. In 1953, the Hoefgens sold the house to the UT Board of Regents, who used it as the official residence of the university president.

# \$40,000 Home Bought by UT For President

University of Texas regents Saturday purchased a home for the new Main University president, Dr. Logan Wilson, who will take office Jan. 31.

They bought the Harold Hoefgen home at 1610 Watchhill Road for \$40,000. The home formerly occupied by the presidents at 108 West 27th Street has been sold to the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary for \$50,102.

The board also authorized a \$2,400 fund for rennovation of the new home.

Story on the purchase of the house by the University of Texas regents as a home for the university president  
Austin American, December 7, 1952

## Harold W. Hoefgen

Harold W. Hoefgen, age 87, of Onion Creek died Saturday.

Mr. Hoefgen owned and operated the Hoefgen Company of Austin and Taylor for a number fo years and was past-president of the Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas.

A member of St. Matthews Episcopal Church, he was also a member of the Austin Rotary Club, Ben Hur Shrine and Scottish Rite Bodies.

Survivors include his wife, Helen Hoefgen, Austin; daughter, Faye Harris and son, Harry Berry, both of Austin; sister, Doris Bone, St. Louis, Missouri; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

Services, 1:30 PM, Monday, Weed-Corley Funeral Home, with Reverend Charles H. Huffman officiating. Burial, Austin Memorial Park.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar. 452-8811.

Obituary of Harold W. Hoefgen  
Austin American-Statesman, June 8, 1986

Dr. Logan Wilson became the president of the University of Texas, and moved into this house. Wilson was a native of Huntsville, Texas, and did his post-graduate work at the University of Texas and at Harvard University. He began his teaching career in the English department of East Texas State College, then went on to the University of Maryland to teach sociology. He then became the head of the Sociology Department at Tulane University in New Orleans, and was appointed dean of Tulane in 1944. He next went to the University of North Carolina, where he served as vice-president and provost before coming to the University of Texas to serve as president. Wilson was the university president who oversaw the desegregation of the university, opening classes to African-American students in 1956, although university dormitories remained segregated until the mid-1960s. He also worked to increase faculty salaries during his tenure as president of UT. Wilson left UT in 1961 to head up the Council on Education in Washington, D.C.

Harry Hunt Ransom and his wife, Hazel Ransom, moved into this house in 1960, when he became the president of the University of Texas. Harry Ransom was born in Galveston in 1908, and educated at the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, Yale, Harvard, and the University of London. He began teaching at the University of Texas in 1935 in the English Department, and became a full professor in 1947. He became the assistant dean of the Graduate School in 1951, and chaired the Plan II program for liberal arts majors. After a year as associate dean, he became the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1954, and the vice-president and provost of the University in 1957. In 1960, he became the president of the University of Texas, and chancellor in 1961. He retired in 1971, but held his emeritus status until his death in 1976.

Ransom served as the leader of the university through some dark days in the 1960s, coping with the Charlie Whitman shooting from the tower, campus unrest during the Vietnam War, and the ongoing struggle for civil rights. However, his pre-eminent achievement in the fields of academia and culture, was the establishment of the Humanities Research Center, which is renowned as having one of the best library collections in the world, and has helped establish the reputation of the University of Texas.

Harry Ransom's wife, Hazel, was also very active in the academic community. She was a native of Mart, Texas, and graduated from the University of Texas with 2 degrees in English. She met her husband while teaching English at UT; they married in 1951. She was the editor of special publications at UT, and organized his papers into books after his death.

The UT Board of Regents sold the house in 1977, and it has been in private hands since. More recent residents have included realtor Trey Garrison.

**PARCEL NO.:** 01130102100000

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Lot 8, Sunset Hill, Enfield

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT:** \$8,500 (owner-occupied) - capped; city portion: \$2,500 (capped).

**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$1,512,814

**PRESENT USE:** Residence

**CONDITION:** Excellent



**PRESENT OWNERS:**

Blake and Julie Bergstrom  
1610 Watchhill Road  
Austin, Texas 78703

**DATE BUILT:** ca. 1938

**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** A formerly open porch to the left of the main block of the house has been glassed in with French doors. A French door in the right bay of the front façade has been converted to a 6:6 window.

**ORIGINAL OWNER(S):** Harold and Faye Hoefgen (1938)

**OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS:** None.



Undated photograph of the house from a real estate website shows the 1:1 configuration of the windows.



Mr. & Mrs. Harold W. Hoef-  
gen

1610 Watchhill Rd.

~~90F~~

8

147

Pease Estate

2 story frame residence-garage attached

222n - 4/14/38

10

~~H. W. Hoefgen~~

~~1610 Watchhill Rd.~~

~~147~~

~~8~~

~~Sunset Hill~~

~~frame servants quarters~~

~~26777 3-5-45~~

~~\$850.00~~

J. M. Odom

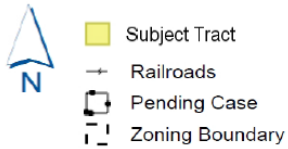
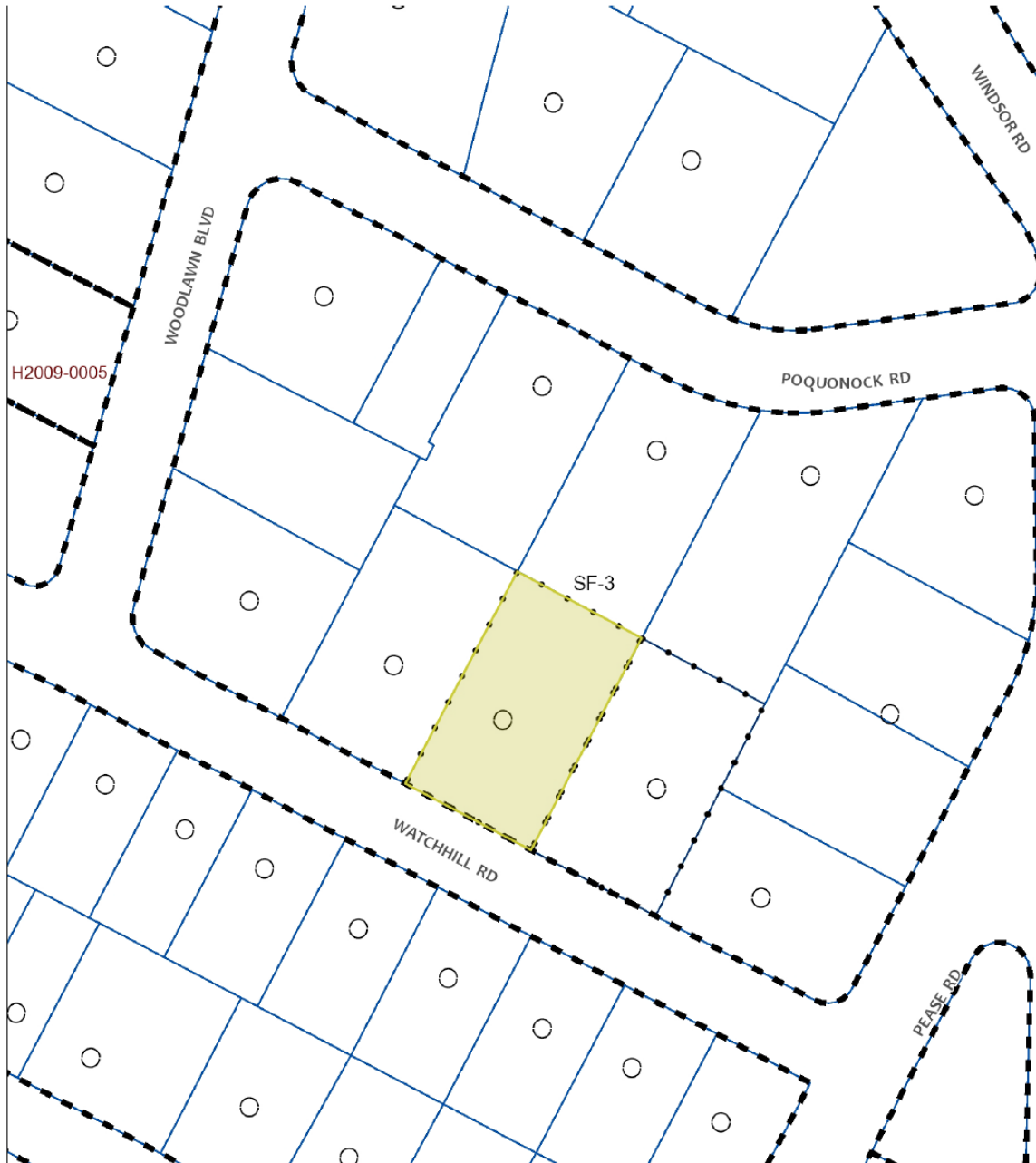
4

Tap on lot

Connection Charge ~~X~~ # 92 14296 A  
 Application for Sewer Connection.  
 Austin, Texas, 4/13 1938  
 To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,  
 City of Austin, Texas  
 Sir:—  
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions  
 on premises owned by H. W. Hoefgen  
 at 1015 Watchhill Rd Street,  
 further described as lot 8 block 8, outlot       ,  
 subdivision 200505 HILL division       , plat 90F,  
 which is to be used as a Res  
 In this place there are to be installed 7 fixtures.  
 I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance  
 charge.  
 1-DEEP Respectfully, D.W. Lanier  
 AT-PL  
 Stub Out  
 Connected 7-18 1938 Not for  
 Size of Main 6 inches. Permit PD  
 Size of Service 7 inches. OK  
3 Feet Deep Easement  
2 Feet from Property Line  
       Feet from Curb Line  
 Inspected by Boatright Con 25  
 Connection made by Trages W of E  
9932 B-13 PL

Sewer connection application by Harold Hoefgen for this address (1938)

# LOCATION MAP



50 100 Feet

1" = 100'

## ZONING

ZONING CASE#: C14H-2015-0152



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

## **Chronology of Owners/Occupants**

### 1610 Watchhill Road

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1937 | No Listing<br>Note: Harold and Faye Hoefgen-residence 1611 Woodlawn<br>Gugenheim-Goldsmith Co.  |
| 1939 | Harold and Faye Hoefgen-Mgr. Gugenheim-Goldsmith Co.<br>Note: Harry H. Ransom-Assistant Prof. UT<br>Residence: 1906 University Ave.   |
| 1940 | Harold and Faye Hoefgen-Mgr. Gugenheim-Goldsmith Co.<br>Note: No listing for Harry Ransom   |
| 1941 | Harold and Faye Hoefgen-Mgr. Gugenheim-Goldsmith Co.<br>Note: Harry H. Ransom-Assistant Prof. UT<br>Residence: 108 W. 15th, Apt. 402  |
| 1942 | Harold and Faye Hoefgen-Mgr. Gugenheim-Goldsmith Co.<br>Note: Harry H. Ransom-Assistant Prof. UT<br>Residence: 108 W. 15th, Apt. 402<br>Note: No listing for Logan Wilson   |
| 1944 | Harold and Faye Hoefgen-Mgr. Gugenheim-Goldsmith Co.<br>Note: Harry H. Ransom-Prof. UT<br>Note: No listing for Logan Wilson   |
| 1947 | Harold and Faye Hoefgen-Mgr. Gugenheim-Goldsmith Co.<br>Note: Harry H. Ransom (Marion G.)-teacher UT<br>Residence: 809 Keasbey<br>Note: L.G. Wilson (Anna)-Bookkeeper Farnsworth Const.<br>Residence: 1513 Pease, Apt. 4<br>Note: No listing for Logan Wilson |
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- 1949 Harold and Faye Hoefgen-Mgr. Gugenheim-Goldsmith Co.  
Note: Harry H. Ransom-Prof. UT  
Residence: RD 3  
Note: No listing for Logan Wilson or L. G. Wilson
- 1952 Harold and Faye Hoefgen-Mgr. Gugenheim-Goldsmith Co.  
Note: Harry H. Ransom-Prof. UT  
Residence: 1908 University Ave.  
Note: No listing for Logan Wilson or L. G. Wilson
- 1953 Logan Wilson (Myra)-President of UT  
Note: Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Prof. UT  
Residence: 2428 Jarratt Ave.  
Note: Harold and Faye Hoefgen-Mgr. Gugenheim-Goldsmith  
Residence: 2605 Hillview Rd.  
Note: No listing for Frank Ikard
- 1954 Logan Wilson (Myra)-Acting Chancellor & President of UT  
Note: Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Prof. UT  
Residence: 2428 Jarratt Ave.  
Note: Harold and Faye Hoefgen-Mgr. Gugenheim-Goldsmith  
Residence: 2605 Hillview Rd.  
Note: No listing for Frank Ikard
- 1955 Logan Wilson (Myra)-President & Prof. UT  
Note: Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Dean College of Arts &  
Sciences UT  
Residence: 2428 Jarratt Ave.  
Note: No listing for Frank Ikard or Stan Huckaby
- 1957 Logan Wilson (Myra)-President of UT  
Note: Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Dean UT  
Residence: 2428 Jarratt Ave.  
Note: No listing for Frank Ikard or Stan Huckaby
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- 1958 Logan Wilson (Myra)-President of UT  
Note: Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-VP of UT  
Residence: 2428 Jarratt Ave.  
Note: No listing for Frank Ikard or Stan Huckaby
- 1959 Logan Wilson (Myra)-President of UT  
Note: Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-VP Provost-UT  
Residence: 2428 Jarratt Ave.  
Note: No listing for Frank Ikard or Stan Huckaby
- 1960 Logan Wilson (Myra)-President of UT  
Note: Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-VP Provost-UT  
Residence: 2428 Jarratt Ave.  
Note: No listing for Frank Ikard or Stan Huckaby
- 1961 Logan Wilson (Myra)-Chancellor-UT  
Note: Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-President-UT  
Residence: 2428 Jarratt Ave.  
Note: No listing for Frank Ikard or Stan Huckaby
- 1962 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Prof at UT  
Note: No listing for Logan Wilson, Frank Ikard or Stan Huckaby
- 1963 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Prof at UT  
Note: No listing for Logan Wilson, Frank Ikard or Stan Huckaby
- 1964 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Prof at UT  
Note: Frank Ikard-Student-res. 3001 Red River  
Note: No listing for Stan Huckaby
- 1965 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Chancellor UT  
Note: Frank Ikard-Student-res. 3001 Red River  
Note: No listing for Stan Huckaby
- 1967 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Chancellor UT  
Note: Frank Ikard-Student-res. 3001 Red River  
Note: No listing for Stan Huckaby
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- 1968 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Chancellor UT  
 Note: Frank Ikard-Student-res. 3001 Red River  
 Note: No listing for Stan Huckaby
- 1969 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Chancellor UT  
 Note: Frank Ikard-Student-res. 3001 Red River  
 Note: No listing for Stan Huckaby
- 1970 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Chancellor UT  
 Note: Frank Ikard Jr. (Carol)-assoc. Clark Thomas  
 Residence: 4211 Greystone  
 Note: No listing for Stan Huckaby
- 1971 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Chancellor UT  
 Note: Frank Ikard Jr. (Carol)-assoc. Clark Thomas  
 Residence: 4211 Greystone  
 Note: No listing for Stan Huckaby
- 1972-74 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Chancellor UT  
 Note: Frank Ikard Jr. (Carol)-assoc. Clark Thomas  
 Residence: 4211 Greystone  
 Note: No listing for Stan Huckaby
- 1975 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Chancellor UT  
 Note: Frank Ikard Jr. (Carol)-assoc. Clark Thomas  
 Residence: 4211 Greystone  
 Note: No listing for Stan Huckaby
- 1976 Harry H Ransom (Hazel)-Chancellor UT  
 Note: Frank Ikard Jr. (Carol)-Clark Thomas  
 Residence: 4211 Greystone  
 Note: No listing for Stan Huckaby
- 1977 Frank Ikard Jr. (Carol)-Clark Thomas  
 Note: Hazel Ransom (widow of Harry)-dist. salesman for UT  
 Residence: 1803 Stamford Lane  
 Note: No listing for Stan Huckaby
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## **Deed Chronology**

1610 Watchhill Road

Sunset Hill Enfield Co.  
to Brush, Brush, Brush & Brush  
5/27/1935  
Vol. 522 Page 170

Brush, Brush, Brush & Brush  
to Harold W. and Kay Hoefgen  
1/17/1936  
Vol. 586 Page 203

Harold and Kay Hoefgen  
to University of Texas Board of Regents  
12/10/1952  
Vol. 1300 Page 218

UT Board of Regents  
to Frank N. and Carol Ikard  
3/9/1977  
Vol. 5745 Page 1452

Frank N. and Carol Ikard  
to Stan and Jane Huckaby  
8/15/1980  
Vol. 7087 Page 1494

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Stan and Jane Huckaby  
to Morris S. and Nancy Minton  
2/1/1984  
Vol. 8442 Page 295

Morris and Nancy Minton  
to L. G. and Lana Sassman Wilson  
9/14/1984  
Vol. 8838 Page 229

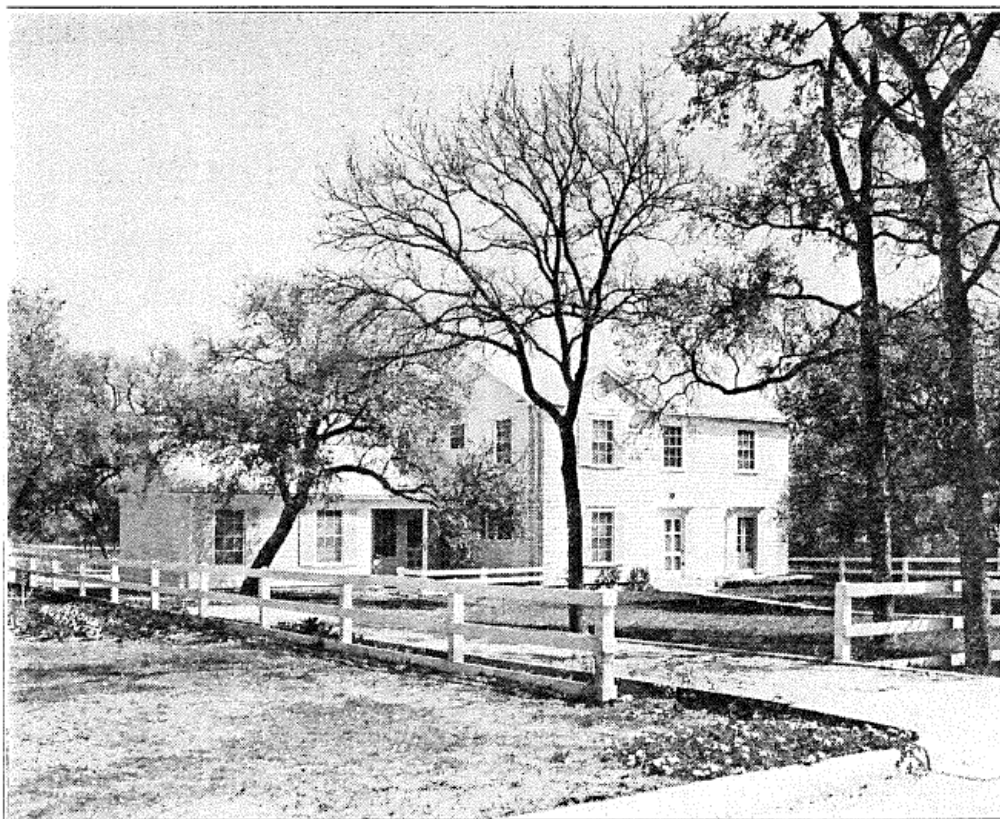
Lana Sassman Wilson  
to Anne and Homer Garrison III  
4/11/1994  
Vol. 12162 Page 1025

Anne and Homer Garrison III  
to Blake A. and Julie A. Bergstrom  
8/26/2015  
2015137053

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*Gossip!*

## One of Austin's Attractive New Homes



Austin History Center

### *Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Hoefgen*

1610 Watchhill Road—Sunset Hill  
Designed by Page & Southerland, Architects



#### HAROLD W. HOEFGEN

(Slim)

SENIOR ACTIVE MEMBER  
(Fruits, Vegetables Wholesaling)  
Owner, The Hoefgen Co.  
1917 E. 7th St., Box 6267  
478-5773 (78167)  
Cambridge Tower, Apt. 14-A  
1801 Lavaca St.  
Birthday, Oct. 5  
Entered Club 1954  
Rotary Ann—Helen



- BIOGRAPHY  
WILSON, LOGAN  
Wilson, Myra (Marshall)  
PICB 09957







*This is the new home provided for the incoming president, Dr. Logan Wilson. It is located at 1610 Watchhill Road in the Enfield section.*

## Something Old, Something New

A new home is bought for the  
incoming president of UT

*The old president's home, which was recently sold to the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, stood next door to Scottish Rite Dorm.*



January, 1953

## News Review

ALONG WITH our new president of the University, Dr. Logan Wilson, comes a new home for him and his family to enjoy. The Board of Regents has authorized the purchase of a lovely, white, colonial-type home in the Enfield addition in Austin to house the University's tenth president. 1610 Watchhill Road will be the official residence of the Main University's highest executive.

The old president's home was located at 108 West Twenty-seventh Street between the Scottish Rite Dormitory and the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. It was the Seminary which purchased the old president's home for a total of \$50,102. The house was built in 1910 and was in need of improvements when it was sold.

The new president's home, formerly owned by Harold Hoefgen, cost the University \$40,000. The Regents stipulated that not more than \$2,400 could be used to freshen up the interior of the newly-purchased home for Dr. Wilson.

One of the new house's most attractive features is the grove of oak trees which spreads over most of the front lawn. A white fence surrounds the front yard, and a long driveway leads from the street down the west side of the 100-foot by 175-foot lot. Gray shutters surround the windows and front door of the two-story house. A servant's house is in the rear of the property as is a paved terrace.

Inside, the Wilsons will find a spacious interior. Downstairs, there is the entrance hall, living room, dining room, den, kitchen, butler's pantry, maid's room, open porch, and curved stairway. Upstairs there are two bedrooms plus the master bedroom (which has a fireplace), two baths, and ample closet space. Since the University is planning to repaint the interior, it would hardly be newsworthy to spend much time on the old color scheme.

With two lively boys to house, a lot of entertaining to do, and a quiet repose for a busy executive, the house on Watchhill Road seems to have been built for a University president.

Austin History Center

# Dr. Logan Wilson Is Dead at 83; Led University of Texas System

By GLENN FOWLER  
Published: November 9, 1990

Dr. Logan Wilson, a former chancellor of the University of Texas system and past president of the American Council on Education, died on Wednesday at a nursing home in Austin, Tex. He was 83 years old and lived in Austin.

He died of lung cancer, his family said.

In a long career as an educator Dr. Wilson, a sociologist by training, sought to insulate universities from what he called "vested-interest group pressure, splinter movements and fragmented approaches" that he regarded as plaguing higher education.

In 1956, three years after he took over as head of the university system, he opened all academic programs to black students, making it the first university system in the South to integrate, although its dormitories remained segregated until the mid-1960's. New Emphasis on Academics

In eight years as the administrative head of the Texas system, he fought to increase faculty salaries and to establish a reputation for academic achievement at an institution that had been regarded primarily as a premier football factory.

He left Texas in 1961 to become president of the Council on Education in Washington, the most influential nongovernmental body in the field. There he sought, among other things, to raise standards of degree-granting by colleges and to improve the quality of graduate faculties. He retired in 1971.

Dr. Wilson, a native of Huntsville, Tex., was a graduate of Sam Houston College, held master's degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and from Harvard University and received his doctorate from Harvard.

He began teaching in 1928 as an assistant professor of English at East Texas State College and taught sociology at the University of Maryland before heading the sociology departments at Tulane and the University of Kentucky.

In 1944 he returned to Tulane as dean of Newcomb College there, and in 1951 he was appointed vice president and provost of the University of North Carolina. Two years later he was chosen to head the Texas university system.

He wrote many articles in sociological and other academic publications and was the author of four books, including "The Academic Man," published in 1942, and "Shaping American Higher Education" in 1972.

Dr. Wilson is survived by his wife, the former Myra Marshall, whom he married in 1932;

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

GOOGLE+

EMAIL

SHARE

PRINT

REPRINTS



**IN MEMORIAM****LOGAN WILSON**

Logan Wilson, retired president of The University of Texas at Austin, died on November 7, 1990. He was 83.

President Wilson was born on March 6, 1907, in Huntsville, Texas. He received a bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University in 1926 and a master's degree from UT Austin in 1927. He earned master's and doctoral degrees from Harvard University in 1938 and 1939, respectively.

From 1939 through 1941 President Wilson taught at the University of Maryland. He later taught at Tulane University, where he also served as chairman of sociology and dean of Newcomb College. He went on to serve as vice president and provost of the Consolidated University of North Carolina. In 1953 he was selected president of UT Austin. In 1960 he was named chancellor of the University.

Two of President Wilson's most significant accomplishments were passage of the state constitutional amendment to expand the Available and Permanent University funds and the creation of a commission to oversee post secondary education, the Texas Commission on Higher Education. The University was integrated in 1956, during his administration.

In 1961 he resigned from the University to direct the American Council on Education (ACE). As head of ACE, President Wilson led efforts to raise degree standards and improve graduate studies facilities in American colleges and universities.

President Wilson's publications included *The Academic Man: A Study in the Sociology of a Profession* (1942), *Emerging Patterns in American Higher Education* (1965), *Shaping American Higher Education* (1972), and *American Academics: Then and Now* (1979).

He was a member of more than 20 professional associations, including the Southwestern Sociological Society, the Southern Association of Colleges, the National Commission on Accrediting, the Texas Commission on Atomic Energy, and the Association of American Colleges Commission on Liberal Education.

The University established the Logan Wilson Faculty Fellowship in Academic Administration to honor President Wilson.

<signed>

John R. Durbin, Secretary  
The General Faculty

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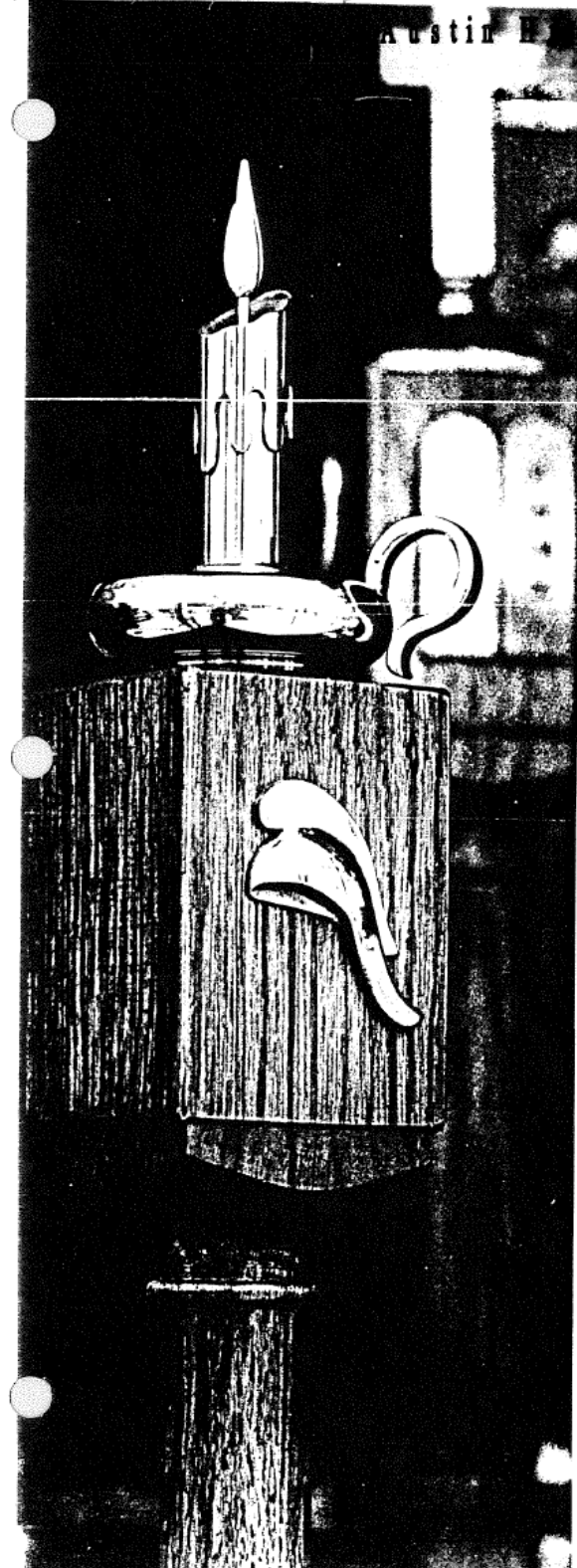
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

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RANSOM, Harry Hunt, 1908-1976.

LACTUS, 1970.



1958 — University vice-president and provost

## HARRY HUNT RANSOM

Asst. Professor of English  
1938-1947

Professor of English  
1947-1951

Asst. Dean, Graduate School  
1951-1953

Assoc. Dean, Graduate School  
1953-1954

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
1954-1957

University Vice-President and Provost  
1957-1960

University President  
1960-1961

Chancellor, The University of Texas System  
1961-1971



HARRY HUNTT RANSOM  
Chancellor of The University of Texas

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Excerpt from the book *Harry Hunt Ransom: Intellect in Motion*

By Alan Gribben

Page 150

Ransom's ascension to the chancellorship was barely noticeable in certain respects. He had been a fixture of the University of Texas administration long enough that his transition to the highest post in the system might have seemed natural, almost inevitable. Still, there was one pronounced change for Harry and Hazel Ransom personally: they inherited Logan Wilson's handsome two-story home at 1610 Watchhill Road on the scenic west side of Austin. The regents allocated \$10,000 to repaint and remodel the residence for the Ransoms. They would live there from 1960 until 1976.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the campus community's familiarity with its new chancellor, the student newspaper devoted a three-part series to the man who would succeed Logan Wilson as chancellor. Mrs. Frances Hudspeth informed the reporter, Hoyt Purvis, that Ransom "comes in as early as 6 o'clock, . . . and almost always by 8." He fingers a filter-tip cigarette as he "sits behind his desk and runs through his mail. . . . He answers some of the mail himself, and it isn't unusual for him to wheel around behind his desk and personally type some of his correspondence." "He is definitely the energetic type," says Mrs. Hudspeth. "He never has an idle moment [and] doesn't want one. Anyone who works for him is devoted. There's no urgency, but there's work to be done and we like to do it." After replying to the mail and writing some speeches, Ransom often "holds a staff meeting, likely to include Dr. J. R. Smiley, his successor as vice president and provost; Dr. O. A. Singleton, assistant to the president; and G. W. Landrum, business manager. Ransom ordinarily works in a luncheon appointment and goes strong all day before heading homeward at 5:30 or 6 P.M." As for relaxation, he "normally gets a portion of one day a week, plus occasional weekends for home life. He and his wife are fond of visits to the country, and Ransom gets away from everyday rigors with country strolls. The couple also attends a small Episcopal Church away from Austin."<sup>2</sup>

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## Humanities Center Named for Ransom

The University of Texas System Board of Regents renamed UT Austin's Humanities Research Center for former Chancellor Harry Ransom whose success in acquiring major literary and special collections has brought international distinction to the UT Library.

The HRC, a seven-story building at 21st and Guadalupe, will be known as the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center.

The building is the repository for more than 100 special collections which attract scholars from throughout the world. Particularly notable are renowned manuscript collections that include works by many 20th Century British and American literary figures such as T. S. Eliot, James Joyce, Ezra Pound, George Bernard Shaw, W. H. Auden, Dylan Thomas, D. H. Lawrence, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller and William Faulkner.

The invaluable archive of 20th Century literary collections prompted British authority Anthony Hobson to cite the UT Austin Library as one of the 32 great libraries of Western Europe and North America (a distinction accorded only five libraries in America).

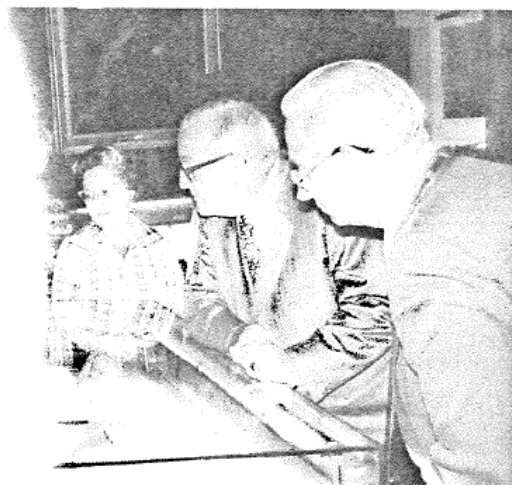
Other special collections which Dr. Ransom was instrumental in acquiring are those in the history of science, theater arts, photography, cartography, aviation and history of the press, among others. HRC collections include about three million leaves of manuscript, 700,000 printed volumes, a half million photographs and about 12,000 pieces of art in the iconography collection.

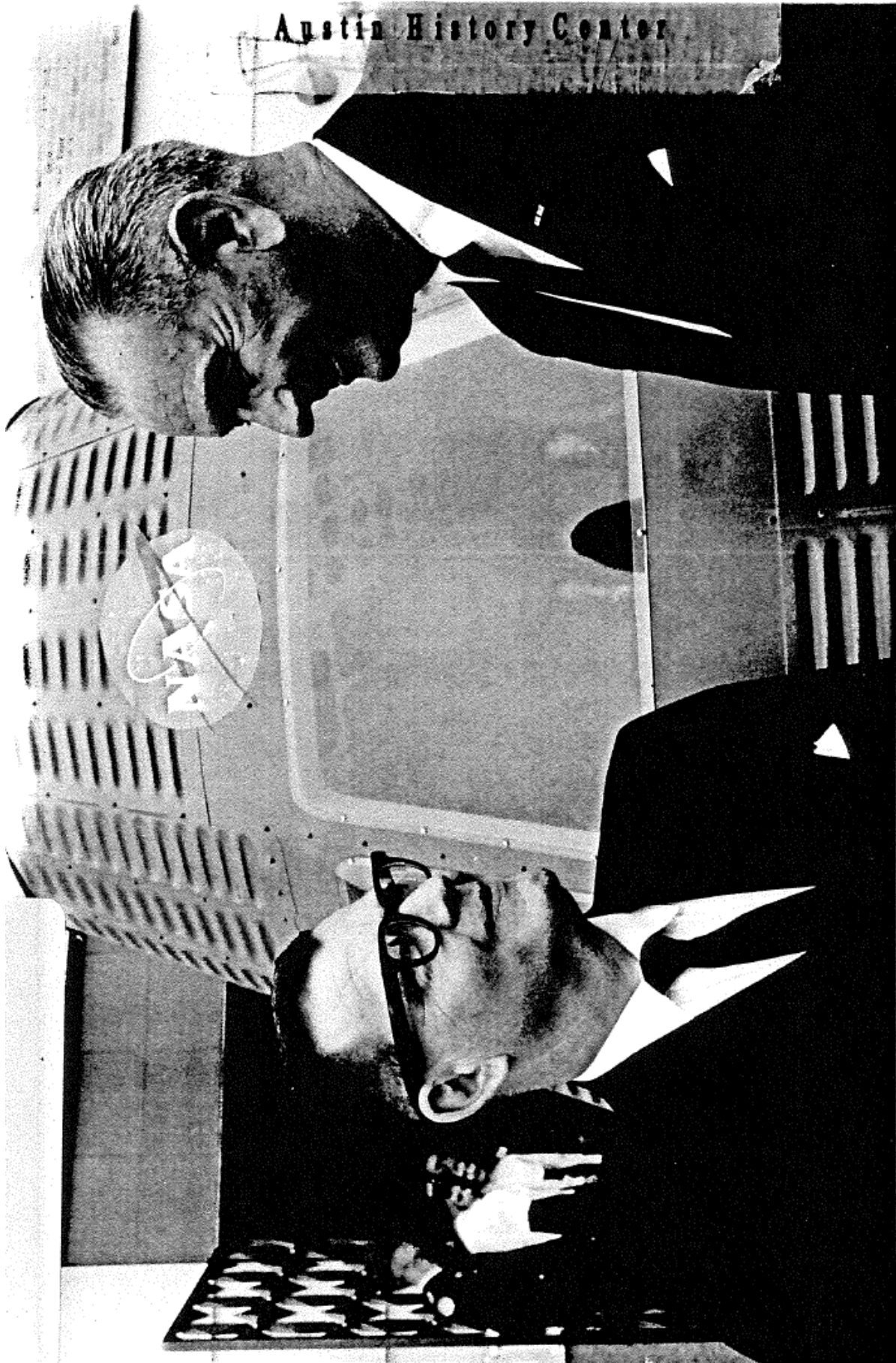
Dr. Ransom, who served as chancellor of the UT System from 1961 through 1970, has held the title of chancellor emeritus for almost four years and has been active as coordinator of research collections for the Humanities Research Center.

This fall he began a new assignment — to write a history of UT Austin from its beginning in 1883 through 1961.

A specialist in the fields of copyright law and bibliography, Dr. Ransom has been identified with UT Austin since 1935 when he joined the faculty of the English Department. He later held a number of administrative positions, including that of president (1960-61), before becoming chancellor.

A champion of library development, he was the moving force behind the construction and program of UT's Undergraduate Library and Academic Center, and the HRC. He is the founding editor of the Texas Quarterly and current president of the Texas Institute of Letters.







# UT Chancellor Ransom Dons 'Emeritus' Robes

By LESLIE TAYLOR

Staff Writer

"Emeritus" is a Latin word meaning "having fully earned."

On Jan. 1, that title was added to the list of distinctions already held by Dr. Harry Ransom, chancellor of the University of Texas for a decade.

Ransom is the third chancellor to head the university, but he is the only one of these chief administrators to hold the title "emeritus." He was succeeded on Jan. 1 by Dr. Charles LeMaistre, who became deputy chancellor in the summer of 1969 and then chancellor-elect in the summer of 1970.

There was no startling change for Ransom at the start of the New Year.

He relinquished the day-to-day operation of the system to LeMaistre in the summer of 1969. It was a move that effectively put great distance between the distinguished scholar and the political maneuvering that has characterized the university since that time — including the forced reorganization of Arts and Sciences, firing A&S Dean John Silber, naming Bryce Jordan as president ad interim, and the current unresolved problem of naming a permanent president.

A.S. chancellor-emeritus, Ransom will continue the valuable development work — improving library collections

to translate his ideas into reality," Cline said.

"By 1956," Hobson said, "he (Ransom) had become convinced of the advantage to undergraduate and graduate students of a research collection of original manuscripts."

Ransom set out to collect the works of 20th century England and America. It was an area, Ransom said, "in which several disciplines interact, particularly literature and science" and so of special interest to the university.

Ransom was able to win over the university administration and the state legislature. The acquisition program took off in 1956 while Ransom was dean of Arts and Sciences.

"Two years later," Hobson writes, "a single coup raised the collection to the level of international importance. This was the purchase of the major part of the library formed over 30 years by T. E. Hanley

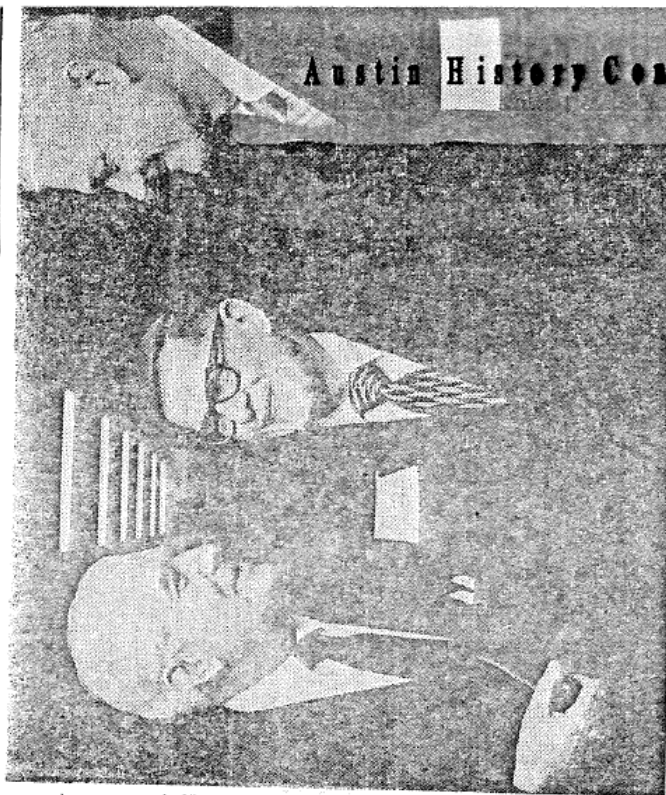
of Pennsylvania, particularly rich in D. H. and T. E. Lawrence, Shaw, Eliot, Pound, Joyce, Yeats, and Dylan Thomas."

"It is on the great 20th century archive that its (library's) lasting reputation will be based," Hobson said.

Ransom himself outlined a few of the luxuries an administrator emeritus may enjoy when he spoke in 1964 at a dinner honoring Dr. John Flowers, retiring president of Southwest Texas State University. These included:

"Not having to prepare for public functions when he needs to nurse a sniffing cold or lumbago or simply prefers to sleep late the day of the meeting.

"Not having to get up early to read the student newspaper so as to answer with reasonable moderation the other papers who want to make a college crisis out of one paragraph of undergraduate midnight musing (and to defend the



Austin History Center

## DR. HARRY RANSOM FLANKED BY PREDECESSORS

Logan Wilson (l) and James P. Hart at dedication of Burdine Hall

even though the dean kicked him out.

"Not staying awake bothering about the gap between what he knows the faculty and the students when he wants to attend social function."

funds can provide for them.

"Not having to attend social function when he wants to read a book."

"Not having to read a book when he wants to attend social function."



## Chancellor Emeritus Harry Ransom Dies

Dr. Harry Hunt Ransom, chancellor emeritus of The University of Texas System, died unexpectedly April 19 while visiting his wife's parents near Dripping Springs.

Dr. Ransom was chancellor of the University System for almost 10 years before assuming the emeritus title on Jan. 1, 1971. Under his leadership, the University advanced from an outpost to a crossroads in the academic world.

His most lasting contribution is the Humanities Research Center, housed in a building that bears his name. Largely on the basis of the HRC collections—literature, history of science, theater arts, photography, cartography—the UT Austin library was given a place in Anthony Hobson's book "Great Libraries," which described 32 leading libraries of Western Europe and North America. Only five U.S. libraries were included.

As chancellor emeritus, Dr. Ransom had been preparing a history of the University, under a special assignment from the Board of Regents.

Dr. Ransom was a native Texan (Galveston, Nov. 22, 1908) and spent almost all his professional career at UT Austin. He prepared for teaching at Sewanee, Yale, Harvard and the University of London. He held honorary degrees from the University of the South (Sewanee), Austin College and Baylor, Trinity and Texas Christian Universities.

Dr. Ransom joined the UT Austin faculty as a part-time instructor in English in 1935 and advanced through the teaching ranks to full professorship in 1947. For many years, he was chairman of the Plan II liberal arts program for the Bachelor of Arts degree.

His principal research interests were in the fields of copyright law and bibliography. He founded the Texas Quarterly in 1958 and served as chairman of its editorial board at his death.

Dr. Ransom entered University administration in 1951 as assistant dean of the Graduate School. He became associate dean of the Graduate School in 1953, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1954, vice president and provost in 1957 and president of UT Austin in 1960.

He became chancellor of the UT System in 1961.

Throughout his career in teaching and administration, Dr. Ransom's principal concern was the individual student. He originated a 24-hour telephone counseling service, a special admissions program for highly motivated students who fail the required entrance test and honors programs to enrich

*Continued on p. 7*



Harry Hunt Ransom

"When in the light of history the life of Harry Hunt Ransom is revealed in true measure, we will ever more come to know that we have been in the presence of extraordinary greatness. Always gentle, courteous, and wise, his visionary leadership transformed academic adequacy into excellence and established the present national eminence of The University of Texas. In this moment of overwhelming sorrow at the loss of Texas' finest scholar and humanist, we find comfort in his legacy that lives on for the betterment of all who follow."

Chancellor Charles A. LeMaistre



**Hazel Louise Harrod Ransom**

Hazel Louise Harrod Ransom, widow of the late University of Texas Chancellor Harry Hunt Ransom, died Saturday, August 28, 1993.

She was the only child of the late Andrew Cray and Ora (Lee) Harrod of Mart, Texas, near Waco. She did not have children or siblings.

Among surviving relatives are a cousin, Thomasine McKinney and her husband, Lonnie L. McKinney and their son, Lonnie Jr., all of Houston. Her faithful friend, Miguel Gonzalez-Gerth, supervised her care during her long illness.

After high school, Hazel attended the University of Texas, from which she received the B.A. and M.A. degrees in English. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Prior to her marriage to Harry Hunt Ransom, on August 11, 1951, she was an instructor in English at the University.

After Harry's death, Hazel, as editor of special publications at UT, undertook the task of sifting through her late husband's papers in an effort to organize and preserve some of the important contributions he had made to the thought and planning that were instrumental in shaping the University of Texas and higher education in general. The result has been the publication of five books, *The Conscience of the University*, *The Other Texas Frontier*, *Chronicles of Opinion on Higher Education, 1955-1975*, *The Song of Things Begun*, and *Snow in Austin*. A sixth manuscript was almost complete.

Hazel was the charming and competent hostess at University of Texas events while Harry was professor, dean, and president of the University of Texas at Austin and then chancellor of the University of Texas System. She accompanied him on many trips as he developed the University's famed collections that make up the Humanities Research Center.

She was an honorary member of the executive committee of the UT Chancellor's Council, a member of the President's Associates, and a member of the Liberal Arts Foundation Board. In 1991, she was honored by the Liberal Arts Foundation with its Pro Bene Meritis Award, the highest award given by the College of Liberal

## Hazel Ransom, author, widow of UT leader, dies at age 72

American-Statesman Staff

Hazel Louise Harrod Ransom, widow of the late University of Texas System Chancellor Harry Ransom, who committed her husband's words and speeches to five manuscripts, died early Saturday after an illness. She was 72.

Friends will be received at the Weed-Corley Funeral Home 7 to 9 tonight.

Since her husband's death in 1976, Hazel Ransom had remained active in university affairs, serving as editor of special publications at UT, an honorary member of the executive committee of the UT Chancellor's Council, a member of the President's Associates and a member of the Liberal Arts Foundation Board.

"She was devoted to the university," said Margaret Berry, a friend and former associate dean of students at the university. "She was a scholar, and she was a hostess deluxe as first lady of the university."

Ransom received bachelor's and master's degrees in English at the University of Texas and was an instructor at the university before meeting and marrying Harry Ransom in 1951.

In recent years Hazel Ransom was involved with operations at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, said the center's director, Thomas F. Staley.

"She was a tremendous kind of



Hazel Ransom wrote five books from the works of her husband, the late UT Chancellor Harry Ransom.

spiritual support behind the center," Staley said. He said Hazel Ransom attended all events and exhibition openings at the center, as well as providing financial support. Most important of all, he said, "For me, especially, she was a source of advice, counsel and abundant good will."

Berry said Ransom was working on a sixth manuscript from her husband's writings.

"She had sifted through all of his speeches and works," Berry said. "She felt it was important to preserve his words."

Ransom, who had no siblings or children, is survived by a cousin, Thomasine McKinney, and her husband, Lonnie, and son, Lonnie Jr., all of Houston.

Her funeral will be 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, with interment to follow in Austin Memorial Park. Memorial contributions can be made to the Books Acquisition Fund of the Humanities Research Center, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association or a charity of choice.