

# ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

**CASE NUMBER:** C14H-2010-0002

**HLC DATE:**

February 22, 2010

**PC DATE:**

April 13, 2010

**APPLICANTS:** Gerald Torres and Frances Nash, owners

**HISTORIC NAME:** Culberson House

**WATERSHED:** Johnson Creek

**ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE:** 2504 Bridle Path

**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.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:**

The Culberson House qualifies for landmark designation under the criteria for architectural significance and historical associations. The house is an excellent example of Southern Colonial Revival styling with its symmetrical façade and full-height monumental portico and is associated with Olin Culberson, a long-time Texas Railroad Commissioner who championed the rights of independent oil and gas producers and attracted business to Texas by restricting the export of natural gas out of the state, and incentivizing businesses to locate near gas wellheads.

**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: 7-0.

**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: 7-0.

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

**CITY COUNCIL DATE:** May 13, 2010

**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:** West Austin Neighborhood Association

## **BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

### **Architecture:**

Two-story rectangular-plan side-gabled frame Southern Colonial Revival-styled house with a full-width, full-height independent porch on fluted columns with modified Ionic capitals; the symmetrical façade consists of a central entry with leaded glass sidelights and a fanlight, and single 9:9 windows on the ground floor with 6:6 windows above. There is a one-story rectangular-plan side-gabled frame addition to the left of the principal block and an addition to the right and rear of the principal block.

### **Historical Associations:**

Olin and Mary Lou Culberson purchased this property in 1940 after moving from a house in Aldridge Place. Olin Culberson was born in Coryell County, Texas in 1886, the son of teachers, W.A. and Martha Culberson. The family moved to Hillsboro, where his parents opened a school; the 1900 U.S. Census shows the family in Hillsboro, where both W.A. and Martha Culberson were listed as teachers, and Olin is listed as 13 years old, the second son of the family (he had an older brother Leon, who was then 17). The family also had a housekeeper living with them in Hillsboro, Lulu Goodman, and Lulu's three young daughters, Lillian, Ethel, and Hester. Olin began working in the Hillsboro railroad yards by 1905. He became the deputy clerk of Hill County in 1911, and the Hill County Clerk in 1920. The 1910 U.S. Census shows Olin living with his parents in Hillsboro; his parents were both listed as teachers in a private school; Olin was listed as the city secretary. He married Mary Lou Rachelle of Hubbard, Texas in 1912, and continued to live in Hillsboro. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Olin and Mary Lou Culberson living with his father in the family home in Hillsboro; Olin's mother had passed away. W.A. Culberson had no occupation listed; Olin is listed as a book-keeper, and Mary Lou is listed as a clerk in the county offices. Olin Culberson became the Hill County Judge, and served for two terms, then opened a dry goods store in Edna, Texas, where he maintained a business interest until 1955. The 1930 U.S. Census shows Olin and Mary Lou living in Edna, where he is listed as a dry goods merchant, and she is listed as a public school teacher. He went to work for the Texas Railroad Commission in 1932, becoming the chief examiner and later the head of the Gas Utilities Division. He conducted numerous rate investigations, and in doing so, antagonized certain powerful natural gas interests, which led to his employment termination in 1939. In 1940, he ran successfully for a position as railroad commissioner, and began serving in 1941, the same year that he and Mary Lou moved into this house. Culberson was known as the champion of the independent oil producers, and led several campaigns for the conservation of natural gas and to attract more industry to Texas. He led the fight against gas flaring from oil wells, resulting in the conservation of natural gas. He also fought the exportation of natural gas from Texas wells, believing that industries would be attracted to wellhead areas in Texas rather than locating along pipelines and enjoying the benefits of Texas natural gas from distant locations. He was a long-time supporter and secretary of volunteer firemen's and fire marshal's associations – they held a mass rally in Hillsboro in support of his candidacy for Railroad Commissioner. He served as Railroad Commissioner until his death in 1961. His wife, Mary Lou, was a very active clubwoman, member of several historical associations, and noted antiques collector. She passed away in Austin in 1972. After Mary Lou's death in 1972, their daughter, Mrs. Ima Wittman, sold the house to James and Beverly Hood. James Hood was an orthopedic surgeon. They lived here until 1986, when they sold it to Byron Cox, an attorney, and his wife Susannah. The current owners, Gerald Torres and Frances

Nash, purchased the house in 1996. Gerald Torres is a prominent professor of Law at the University of Texas and a noted authority on environmental and natural resources law.

**PARCEL NO.:** 01140506300000

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** The West 100 feet of Lot 7, Block 15, Westfield "A".

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT:** \$14,336 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$2,412 (capped).

**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$1,146,085

**PRESENT USE:** Single family residence.

**CONDITION:** Excellent.

**PRESENT OWNERS:** Gerald Torres and Frances Nash

**DATE BUILT:** ca. 1941

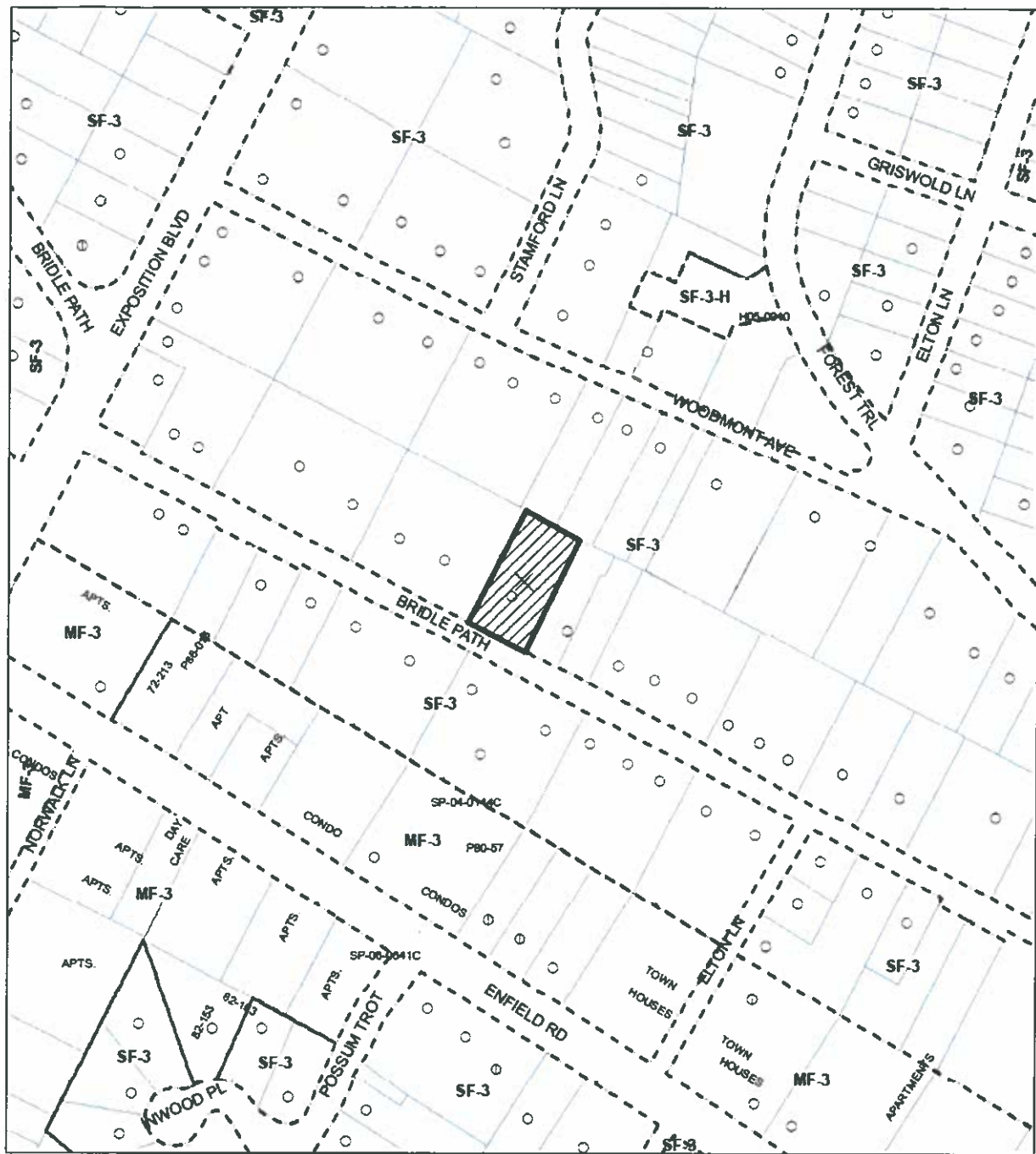
**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** The attached garage was converted to servants' quarters in 1951, and a carport constructed the same year. There do not appear to be any other alterations or additions to the house.

**ORIGINAL OWNER(S):** Olin and Mary Lou Culberson (1941)




**OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS:** None.



# LOCATION MAP



1" = 200'

-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  ZONING BOUNDARY
-  PENDING CASE

OPERATOR: S. MEEKS

HISTORIC ZONING  
 ZONING CASE#: C14H-2010-0002  
 ADDRESS: 2504 BRIDLE PATH  
 SUBJECT AREA: 0.000 ACRES  
 GRID: H24  
 MANAGER: S. SADOWSKY



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.

A. Roy Thomas 2504 Bridle Path  
 154 West 100' of 7  
 Westfield "A"  
 29ty. Frame Res. & Garage Attached  
 21250 - 2-12-41  
 12

Building permit to A. Roy Thomas for the construction of the house (1941)

**WATER SERVICE PERMIT** N° 15742 A  
 Austin, Texas  
 Received of A. Roy Thomas Date Feb 19, 1941  
 Address 2504 Bridle Path  
 Amount Five DOLLARS 00/100 \$ 5.00  
 Plumber Harton Size of Tap 3/4  
 Date of Connection 2-20-41  
 Size of Tap Made 3/4  
 Size Service Made 1/2  
 Size Main Tapped 1/2  
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock ON-P.  
 From W/ Prop. Line to Curb Cock 12'  
 Location of Meter ON-P.  
 Type of Box LOCK  
 Depth of Main in St. 5"  
 Depth of Service Line 12"  
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 12'  
 Checked by Engr. Dept. 7-1-A1 L.E.

No. Fittings	Curb Cock	Elbow	St. Elbow	Bushing	Reducer	Pipe	Lead-Comp.	Nipples	Union	Plug	Tap	Stop	Box	Lid	Valves	Job No.	Req. No.
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

INDEXED

Water service permit to A. Roy Thomas (1941)

Olin Culberson 2504 Bridle Path  
 154 West 100' of 7 15  
 Westfield "A"  
 Convert attached garage into servant's  
 qrts. & erect carpor  
 49555 11-27-51 \$1500.00  
 A. W. Bryant

Building permit to Olin Culberson to convert the garage into servants' quarters and construct a carport (1951)

# A. APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC ZONING

OK to go  
SS  
1-27-10

## PROJECT INFORMATION:

Raw ID #

10395109

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY	
APPLICATION DATE: <u>2/1/10</u>	FILE NUMBER(S): <u>C14H2010-0002</u>
TENTATIVE HLC DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE PC or ZAP DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE CC DATE: <u>TBD</u>	
CASE MANAGER: <u>Steve Sadowsky</u>	CITY INITIATED: YES / NO
APPLICATION ACCEPTED BY: <u>SP</u>	ROLLBACK: YES/NO

## BASIC PROJECT DATA:

1. OWNER'S NAME: <u>Gerald &amp; Frances Torres</u>
2. PROJECT NAME: <u>The Culberson House</u>
3. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (or Range): <u>2504 Bridle Path</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 _____ (ROAD NAME PROPERTY FRONTS ONTO), WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY _____ DISTANCE FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH _____ CROSS STREET.

Wanted: Johnson Cul-urban  
H24

## AREA TO BE REZONED:

4. ACRES <u>0.4785</u>	(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: _____

SCANNED



PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (SUBDIVISION REFERENCE OR METES AND BOUNDS):

10a. SUBDIVISION REFERENCE Name: Westfield A  
Block(s) 15 Lot(s) 7 Page West 100 feet  
Plat Book: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 01-1405-0630-0000

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: [Signature] NAME: Gerald Torres / Frances Nash  
FIRM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NUMBER: 512-482-9319  
STREET ADDRESS: 2504 Brindle Path  
CITY: Austin STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 78703  
EMAIL ADDRESS: Frances.NASH@att.net

AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

17. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION  
SIGNATURE: [Signature] NAME: Suzanne Deaderick  
FIRM NAME: Historic Research Representation TELEPHONE NUMBER: 512-477-2929  
STREET ADDRESS: 2502 Harris Blvd.  
CITY: Austin STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 78703  
CONTACT PERSON: Suzanne Deaderick TELEPHONE NUMBER: 477-2929  
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.

S Deaderick 1-15-10  
Signature Date

Suzanne Deaderick  
Name (Typed or Printed)

Historic Research & Represent.  
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.

[Signature] 1/15/2010  
Signature Date

Gerald Torres & Frances Nash  
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 Deaderick 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

2504 Bridle Path  
(Address or Legal Description)  
Austin, Texas 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.

S Deaderick  
(Applicant's signature)

1-15-2010  
(Date)

SCANNED

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

NO 1054043

COUNT NUMBER: 01-1405-0630-0000

PROPERTY OWNER:

TORRES GERALD & FRANCES NASH  
2504 BRIDLE PATH  
AUSTIN, TX 78703-3212

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

W 100 FT LOT 7 BLK 15 WESTFIELD A

ACRES .0000 MIN TYPE .000000000000

SITUS INFORMATION: 2504 BRIDLE PATH

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 \$19,361.18

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 01/14/2010

Fee Paid: \$10.00

Nelda Wells Spears  
Tax Assessor-Collector

By: 

SCANNED

**Deed Chronology**  
**2504 Bridle Path**

Transaction	Volume/Page	Date
Niles & Margaret Graham to H.D. & Marie Mahaffey		8-1-25
H.D. & Marie Mahaffey to Olin E. Culberson		12-17-40
Ima Culberson Wittman to James F. & Beverly Hood	4820/173	1-7-74
James F. & Beverly Hood to Byron & Suzannah Cox	09833/217	7-31-86
Byron & Suzannah Cox to Gerald Torres & Frances Nash	12196/2166	5-26-94

Occupancy History  
2504 Bridle Path

City Directory Research  
January, 2010

1939	Address not listed Note: Olin & Mary Culberson listed at 115 W. 32nd Street. Olin is listed as Director of Gas Utilities Div. of Railroad Commission of Texas
1940-41	Address not listed Note: Olin & Mary Culberson listed at 115 W. 32nd Street. Olin is listed as Director of Gas Utilities Div. of Railroad Commission of Texas
1942	Olin Culberson (spelled Culbertson)-owner, wife Mary Member-Railroad Commission of Texas
1944-45	Olin Culberson-owner, wife Mary Member-Railroad Commission of Texas
1947	Olin Culberson-owner, wife Mary Chairman-State Railroad Commission of Texas
1949	Olin Culberson-owner, wife Mary Chairman-State Railroad Commission of Texas
1952	Olin Culberson-owner, wife Mary Chairman-State Railroad Commission of Texas
1955	Olin Culberson-owner, wife Mary Commissioner-State Railroad Commission of Texas
1960	Olin Culberson-owner, wife Mary "In charge"-State Railroad Commission of Texas
1961	Olin Culberson-owner, wife Mary "In charge"-State Railroad Commission of Texas
1962	Mrs. Mary R. Culberson

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1963	Mrs. Mary R. Culberson Note: rear-Joy Bissonnette
1967	Mrs. Mary R. Culberson Note: rear-Mrs. Agnes French
1970-72	Mrs. Mary R. Culberson Note: rear-vacant Note: No listing for James F. Hood in city directory
1973	James F. Hood Wife-Beverly Note: Rear-vacant James is listed at Medical Park Orthopedic Clinic
1975	James F. Hood Wife-Beverly Note: Rear-vacant James is listed at Medical Park Orthopedic Clinic
1977	James F. Hood-owner Wife-Beverly Note: Rear-vacant James is listed at Medical Park Orthopedic Clinic
1980	James F. Hood-owner Wife-Beverly Note: Rear-vacant James is listed at Medical Park Orthopedic Clinic
1984-86	James F. Hood-owner Wife-Beverly Note: Rear-vacant James is listed at Medical Park Orthopedic Clinic Note: Byron Cox is listed at Hutchinson, Price, Boyle & Brooks
1987	James & Beverly Hood James is listed at Medical Park Orthopedic Clinic Note: Byron Cox is listed as an attorney @ 2100 One American Center and his residence is 2411 Vista Lane
1988	Byron Cox & Suzannah Byron is listed as a lawyer at Small, Craig, and Werkenthin
1992	Byron Cox and Suzannah Byron is listed as a lawyer at Small, Craig, and Werkenthin

**SCANNED**

## **Biography of Olin Culberson**

Olin Culberson, a member of the Texas Railroad Commission for twenty years and chairman of the powerful regulatory agency for three terms, was known as the champion of "the little uns." He served on the Commission continuously from 1941 to 1961.

Born in Turnersville, Texas on October 26, 1886, Culberson was the son of Professor and Mrs. W.A. Culberson. His parents established the Culberson Select School in Hillsboro and spent their lives in the teaching profession. Olin began his career as a railroad yard worker in 1905 in Hillsboro. He was appointed deputy clerk of Hill County in 1911, and after service as a captain in World War I, he was elected Hill County clerk in 1920. Culberson later served as county judge, and was referred to as Judge Culberson for the remainder of his life by many of his friends.

Culberson came to the Railroad Commission in 1932 and became chief examiner. He later served as head of the Gas Utilities Division of the Commission until 1939. Culberson won his first term as a commissioner in 1941.

Culberson took office at a time when there was increasing public sentiment to strip the Railroad Commission of any real regulatory powers. The advocates of strong central government were in the saddle in Washington, and they had among their goals federal regulation of natural resources. Culberson's influence over the 1941 session of the Texas Legislature was thought to have preserved the role of the Commission. One Texas newspaper interpreted the House action as "a vote of confidence in Olin Culberson."

Throughout World War II, Culberson fought a running battle with Washington bureaucrats. He battled Federal authorities on at least three separate occasions on matters concerning Texas oil.

One of his outside interests was the Texas Firemen's and Fire Marshal's Association. Culberson served as secretary of that organization for 40 years and was credited with having saved fire insurance policy holders thousands of dollars in rate reductions.

Culberson, a plain talking fighter against any waste of Texas natural resources, considered one of his greatest accomplishments the elimination of gas flaring-the venting into the air of casing head gas which is produced along with oil. He was credited with being the man who led the crackdown on flaring. Culberson proposed an order, eventually upheld by the State Supreme Court, requiring the shutdown of oil wells until operators put the casing head gas to beneficial use.

Culberson announced his candidacy for Governor of Texas in 1950, but suffered a heart attack less than a month later and withdrew from the race. He continued to serve as a member of the Railroad Commission of Texas until his death on June 22, 1961.



"He gave a half century of devoted service to the people of Texas and the results of his efforts are embedded in the laws of our state as a legacy to us all," said the president of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association at Culberson's death.

He was married to Mary Lou Rachelle Culberson for 49 years, and they had one daughter.

### **Biography of Mary Lou Rachelle Culberson**

Mary Lou Rachelle was born in 1892 in Hubbard, Texas. She married Olin Culberson in 1912, and became active in both political and civic life. At one time, Mrs. Culberson held memberships in at least 24 clubs and organizations and had a part in establishing several others, including the Texas Zeta Tau Alpha Mother's Club and the University of Texas Law Wives.

Mrs. Culberson's affiliations included life membership in the Federated Women's Club, National Parent-Teachers Association, Delta Kappa Gamma educational fraternity, Garden Club, San Antonio Breakfast Club, Pathfinders, Tuesday Book Club and International Association of Platform Speakers.

Her membership in historical organizations encompassed groups in both Europe and America, including the Huguenott Society and Jamestown Colonists. She was a member of the Heredity Register of the USA and Heritage Society, and was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of 1812 and Daughters of the Confederacy and Republic of Texas.

Mary Lou Culberson was honored as Pioneer Clubwoman of Texas. She died June 14, 1972.

### **Biography of James F. Hood**

James Hood was listed as working at Medical Park Orthopedic Clinic beginning in 1973.

### **Biography of Byon Cox**

Byron Cox was an attorney at Hutchinson, Price, Boyle and Brooks, and later at Small, Craig, and Werkenthin.

### **Biography of Frances Nash**

Frances Nash grew up in Dallas and comes from five generations of Texans. She attended Stanford University, where she met her husband Gerald. They have two children, Bennett and Martha, and a menagerie of pets. Throughout the different places that Gerald's career has taken them, she has made a study of and enjoyed restoring old houses and gardens. She is currently trying to learn all she can about the unique flora and fauna of central Texas.

### **Biography of Gerald Torres**

Gerald Torres currently holds the Bryant Smith Chair at the University of Texas at Austin and is former President of the Association of American Law Schools. A 1977 graduate of the Yale Law School, he has taught at Stanford Law School and at Harvard Law School, where he served as the Oneida Nation Visiting Professor of Law. Professor Torres served as Counsel to the Attorney General on environmental matters and Indian affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice. He has written widely in environmental law, as well as natural resource and Indian law, and has served on the Board of the Environmental Law Institute, the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and the National Petroleum Council. He is currently board chair of EarthDay Network and founding Chairman of the Advancement Project, the leading Civil Rights advocacy organization in the country. He has lectured in Europe and Latin American and served as a consultant to the United Nations on environmental matters. He is a member of the American Law Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations.

[illegible]

REGISTRATION REPORT

1 Full name of \_\_\_\_\_ Medward

2 City of \_\_\_\_\_ Day

3 State of \_\_\_\_\_ no

4 Name of \_\_\_\_\_ no

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# Culberson's Rites Slated

Funeral services for Olin Culberson, champion of "the little uns" for 20 years as a member of the Texas Railroad Commission, will be held Saturday at 3 p.m. at Weed-Corley Funeral Home.

Dr. William Logan, pastor of University Presbyterian Church, will officiate. Burial will be in the State Cemetery under auspices of Hill City Lodge 454, A.F.&A.M.

The 74-year-old commissioner, called "Judge" by his friends,

died Thursday morning in a local hospital from a heart attack.

In public life for half a century, Culberson served on the Commission continuously since 1941, three times as chairman of the powerful regulatory agency. He won a third six-year term in 1958 by two million votes.

Governor Price Daniel will fill the vacancy and his selection will serve until the next general election in November, 1962. The winner would serve out the remaining two years on Culberson's current term.

Daniel telephoned the following statement to his office Thursday from San Francisco, where he is enroute to the National Governor's Conference in Hawaii:

"During his two decades of service as a member of the Texas Railroad Commission, Olin Culberson rendered outstanding service to this state and the entire nation. He was a conscientious and independent official, and his death is a great loss."

"I join his many friends in extending deepest sympathy to Mrs. Culberson and all of his family."

J. F. West of Stamford, president of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association, said:

"He gave a half century of devoted service to the people of Texas and the results of his efforts are embedded in the laws of our state as a legacy to us all."

West said the independent oil men "have lost one of their true champions . . . He was a tower-

ing symbol of conscience at work able foe of monopoly and eloquent in the public interest, implacable foe of monopoly and eloquent fighter for those people he was fond of calling, 'the little uns.'"

The commissioner, a plain talking fighter against any waste of Texas natural resources, considered one of his greatest accomplishments the limitation of gas flaring—the venting into the air of casinghead gas which is produced along with oil. He was credited with being the man who led the crackdown on flaring.

He proposed an order, eventually upheld by the State Supreme Court, requiring the shutdown of oil wells until operators put the casinghead gas to beneficial use.

Culberson's frequent opposition to orders promulgated by majority vote of the Commission made him the "great dissenter" in the field of oil and gas conservation.

(See DEATH, Page 2)

## Four Safe In Crash Of Planes

PORT MANSFIELD (AP) — A 119 "Flying Boomer" crashed and burned about six miles north of here Thursday but all four occupants parachuted to safety.

The crash scene was about a mile inland near the South Norias Ranch in Kennedy County.

The men were picked up about 8 miles east of Lyford in Wilcox County. The pilot told state police when he bailed out he steered the plane toward the open sea. He did not say what caused the plane to crash.

A spokesman at Hartsfield Air Force Base said the plane was from Niagara Falls, N.Y.

## Gone

Months of hunting and lawyers and professors and many who had been to school hail their lives.

The number and the variety of these friends testify to the fact that he never traveled alone.

"He liked to talk too well to be alone," said Dr. Weber. "He loved people too much to hunt alone."

His friends told him that his talk scared away the quail he was trying to hunt, but that he made up for his small bag by telling tall tales about the hunt.

He always kept his dogs and often told his hunting buddies that his dogs didn't give him the trouble his friends did.

He retired from his work as a game warden in 1955 and for

(See WARDEN, Page 2)



# DEATH

Continued from Page One

In Texas. He shared his knowledge on the belief that many lives and miles "were the big boys" and are distinctive of that enterprise.

Culberson diligently fought the record book of passenger service abandonment by the railroads. He began his career as a railroad yard worker in 1905 at Hillsboro.

Born at Turnersville on Oct. 26, 1886, Culberson was the son of Prof. and Mrs. W. A. Culberson who established the Culberson Select School at Hillsboro and spent all their lives in the teaching profession. He married Mary Lou Rochelle of Hubbard in 1912.

Appointed deputy clerk of Hill County in 1911, young Culberson left to enlist in the US Army in 1918. After service as a captain in World War I, he was elected Hill County clerk in 1920 and later

he served as county judge.

As clerk he uncovered a \$253,000 gold bond fraud which resulted in several convictions. After two terms as county judge he went into the general mercantile business in 1925 at Elina and owned a large store there until 1935.

Culberson came to the Commission in 1932 and became chief examiner. He later served as head of the Gas Utilities Division of the Commission until 1939. He won his first term as a commissioner in 1938.

Throughout World War II, Culberson fought a running battle with Washington bureaucrats. He battled Federal authorities on at least three separate occasions on matters concerning Texas oil allocations.

One of his outside interests was the Texas Firemen's and Fire Marshall's Association. He served as secretary of that organization for 40 years and was credited with having saved fire insurance policy holders thousands of dollars in rate reductions. He resigned from the job in 1959.

Culberson might have become governor had he not suffered a heart attack in 1959 less than a month after announcing his candidacy. He had built up a strong, statewide campaign organization.

He had been bothered by his heart off and on ever since. His doctor three weeks ago ordered him into the hospital for several days of general check but added, "you know we couldn't keep him down."

Culberson was a member of Edin Lodge 757, A.F.A.M., the Scot-

ish Rite lodge of Austin and the Shrine.

In addition to his widow, Judge Culberson is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Ina Wittman of Austin; two granddaughters, Mrs. Robert E. Paul and Miss Marilyn Wittman of Austin; a sister, Mrs. Beulah Tomlinson of Dallas; and one brother, Orval Leon Culberson, USA, retired, of Lovelace, Colo.

Active pallbearers will be Ray E. Bowen, Ina Butler, H. L. Force Sr., W. J. Goldstein, Frank E. Harvick, William J. Murray Jr., Vernon Rucker and J. F. West.

Honorary pallbearers will be General Ernest Thompson, W. H. Ainsworth, J. P. Bryan, M. D. Bryant, B. G. Byers, John Davenport, William J. Lawson, O. Q. Long, Senator William M. Patmer, Jimmy Phillips, W. L. Pickens and Herman Pressler.

Contributions may be made to the Culberson Memorial Fund, Scott and White Hospital, Temple.

## Czech Goes, Protesting Innocence

NEW YORK (UPI) — Czech diplomat Miroslav Nacvalac left New York by air Thursday night for Paris and Prague, protesting that the United States branded him a spy and forced him to leave because he would not betray his country.

The U.S. government accused him

**AWARDED 14 U.S. PATENTS**

Now... every one coming into

**TAR GARD**

CHARLES H. HARRIS

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## Olin Culberson



Headstone Text

Culberson

Olin  
1886 - 1961

Mary Rochelle  
1892 - 1972

Back of headstone

Olin Culberson October 26, 1886 - June 22, 1961

Railroad Commissioner 1941 - 1961  
County Clerk Hill County 1920 - 1924  
County Judge Hill County 1924 - 1929  
Secty Texas Volunteer Firemen 1920 - 1960

His Wife

Mary Rochelle Culberson

### People Information:

Full Name: Olin Wellborn Nicholas Culberson  
Location: Section: Republic Hill, Section 2 (C2)  
Row: G, Number: 3  
Reason for Eligibility: Member and Chairman, Railroad Commission of Texas  
Birth Date: October 26, 1886  
Died: June 22, 1961  
Buried: June 24, 1961  
Biography:

CULBERSON, OLIN WELLBORN NICHOLS (1886-1961). Olin Culberson, son of William Albert and Martha Artemesia (Richardson) Culberson, was born at Turnersville, Coryell County, Texas, on October 26, 1886. He was taught by his parents at Culberson Select School, a family enterprise, and afterward labored as a railroad worker in Hillsboro until 1911. That year he was appointed deputy clerk of Hill County. The following year he married Mary Lou Rochelle of Hubbard; the couple had one daughter.

In 1918 Culberson resigned his office to serve in World War I. Upon returning to Hillsboro, he was twice elected county clerk of Hill County. In that office he discovered and exposed a \$263,000 road-bond fraud. In 1925 he became county judge. During his two terms on the bench he used the recovered bond-fraud money to construct needed roads and bridges. He refused to run for a third term, moved to Edna, and purchased an interest in a dry-goods store. He moved in 1932 to Austin, where he was asked to accept a position with the Railroad Commission in order to conduct a rate investigation of the Lone Star Gas Company. First as chief examiner and later as chief of the gas utilities division, he conducted sixteen major rate investigations for the commission. These antagonized certain gas interests, pressure groups sought his removal, and in 1939 he was discharged.

The following year, as a reform candidate, Culberson bested eighteen opponents and was elected railroad commissioner. He was reelected three consecutive times. In addition to proposing a weekly meeting of the railroad commissioners and insisting on ten days' notice for all public hearings, he was responsible for other important rulings. Political appointees were replaced by graduate petroleum engineers. The flaring of casinghead gas was stopped, and its return to the well became mandatory. A malodorant was added to natural gas. Annual inspections of liquefied petroleum gas installations in schools and public buildings were established. Culberson implemented a new system of oil accounting and fought freight-rate discrimination against Southwest Texas. While on the Railroad Commission, he earned a reputation as an uncompromising champion of independent oil producers.

Culberson served the Texas Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association as secretary for over forty years, and he was active in many charitable organizations. He died on June 22, 1961, and was buried in the State Cemetery in Austin. In 1963 the Olin Culberson Memorial Research Center, a center for the study of cardiovascular diseases, was dedicated at Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Olin Culberson Scrapbook, Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas at Austin. *Houston Press*, June 24, 1961. Vertical Files, Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas at Austin.

Robert Stephen Peel

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Culberson served the Texas Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association as secretary for over forty years, and he was active in many charitable organizations. He died on June 22, 1961, and was buried in the State Cemetery in Austin. In 1963 the Olin Culberson Memorial Research Center, a center for the study of cardiovascular diseases, was dedicated at Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple.

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*Robert Stephen Peel*



# Culberson Rites Set Wednesday

Funeral for Mrs. Mary Lou Culberson, widow of Olin Culberson, will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Wead-Corley Funeral Home, Dr. William M. Logan of Brownwood officiating.

Burial will be at the State Cemetery. She died Monday at a local hospital after a long illness.

As wife of the former chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission, Mrs. Culberson was active in both political and civic life. She had been honored as Pioneer Clubwoman of Texas.

Judge Culberson served on the Railroad Commission from 1941 until his death in 1961.

At one time Mrs. Culberson held memberships in at least 24 clubs and organizations and had a part in establishing several other.

She organized the Texas Zeta Tau Alpha Mothers Clubs and helped organize and sponsor the University of Texas Law Wives.

She was a Lady of the Court of the Dames of the Magna Charta and regent of the local chapter.

Her affiliations included life membership in the Federated Women's Clubs, National Parent-Teachers Association and Delta Kappa Gamma, educational fraternity.

She also belonged to the Garden Club, San Antonio Breakfast Club, Pathfinders, Tuesday Book Club and International Association of Platform Speakers.

Mrs. Culberson was a member of the Heredity Register of the USA and Heritage Society and was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of 1812 and Daughters of the Confederacy and Republic of Texas.

Her membership in historical organizations encompassed groups in both Europe and America, including the Huguenott Society and Jamestown Colonists.

Mrs. Culberson's home was full of antiques which she enjoyed collecting. She often gave lectures and book reviews on the subject.

She was a longtime member of the University Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Mrs. Ima C. Wittman of Austin; a brother, Zollie Rochelle of Austin; two grand-daughters; three great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Active pallbearers will be Guy Huddleston, Robert T. Davis, Frank R. Douglass, Owen Scott, Vernon Rucker and Don Harvick.

Honorary pallbearers will be Dr. F. M. Pearce, Dr. G. V. Brindley, North Millican, Ben Ramsey, Hal Hood and Garland Fulbright.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Olin Culberson Memorial Research Center at Scott and White Hospital in Temple, the family said.

**MRS. MARY CULBERSON**

Mrs. Mary Culberson, widow of the late Olin Culberson, died Monday afternoon in a local hospital.

She was a member of the University Presbyterian Church and was an active clubwoman throughout Texas.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Ima C. Wittman of Austin, two granddaughters, Mrs. Patricia Peel of Austin and Mrs. Marlyn Stubbiefield of San Antonio; one brother Zelle Rochette of Austin and three great-granddaughters.

Funeral is pending at the Wood-Corley Funeral Home.

**MRS. OLIN CULBERSON**

Mrs. Olin (Mary Lou) Culberson died in a local hospital Monday after a long illness.

Born Mary Lou Rochelle in Hubbard, Texas in 1882, she was the widow of Judge Olin Culberson former Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. She is survived by their only child, Mrs. Ima C. Wittman and two granddaughters, Mrs. Patricia Peel of Austin and Mrs. Marlyn Stubbiefield of San Antonio. Mr. Zelle Rochette of Austin is her only living brother. She has three great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews living throughout Texas.

Active in political and civic life, Mrs. Culberson was named the Pioneer Clubwoman of Texas and an outstanding Clubwoman of Austin. Her affiliations were varied and included Life Membership in the Federated Women's Clubs, National PTA and Delta Kappa Gamma, educational fraternity. She belonged and regularly offered programs to the Garden Club, San Antonio Breakfast Club, Pathfinders, Tuesday Book Club and the International Association of Philanthropic Speakers. Always proud of her forefathers, Mrs. Culberson was a member of the Heredity Register of the U.S.A. and the Heritage Society.

She also was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of 1812 and Daughters of the Confederacy and the Republic of Texas. Her membership in historical organizations encompassed groups in Europe and America. Such as the Huguenot Society and Jamestown, Colonial.

Mrs. Culberson was a longtime member of the University Presbyterian Church.

Funeral will be held at 3:00 P.M. Wednesday at the Wood-Corley Funeral Home with Dr. William M. Logan of Greenwood and former pastor of the University Presbyterian Church. Burial will be in the State Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Olin Culberson Memorial Research Center at Scott and White Hospital in Temple, Texas.

Active pallbearers will be Guy Hudleston, Robert T. Davis, Frank H. Daugherty, Owen Scott, Vernon D. Barker, Ann H. Harvick.

Honorary pallbearers will be Dr. F. M. Pearce, Dr. G. V. Brindley, Jr., North Miller, Lee Ramsey, Hal Reed and Garland Fulbright.



**OIL PRODUCERS AWARD** — Mrs. Olin B. Culberson of Austin receives an engraved plaque from Stanley C. Woods of Houston, president of the Texas Landowners and Independent Oil and Gas Producers Association, citing the achievements of her late husband.

Mr. Culberson, former chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission, was cited by the organization for his efforts in behalf of the oil and gas industry and free enterprise during his 20 years on the commission. Occasion was the first annual meeting of TLIOPGA.



**MRS. OLIN CULBERSON, CLUBWOMAN**

*President of the Club*