

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2010-0012

HLC DATE: April 26, 2010

PC DATE: June 22, 2010

APPLICANT: Megan Matsen Meisenbach, owner

HISTORIC NAME: Matsen House

WATERSHED: Shoal Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 1800 San Gabriel Street

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

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from family residence (SF-3) district to family residence – historic landmark (SF-3-H) combining district zoning.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from family residence (SF-3) district to family residence – historic landmark (SF-3-H) combining district zoning. Vote: 6-0 (Myers absent).

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from family residence (SF-3) district to family residence – historic landmark (SF-3-H) combining district zoning. Vote: 8-0 (Anderson absent).

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

CITY COUNCIL DATE: November 4, 2010

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Judge's Hill Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Architecture:

Two-story irregular-plan flat-roofed International-style house with a limestone and cedar shingle veneer; 1:1 and 2:2 fenestration, designed by Austin architect Carlton Brush with J. Robert Buffler.

Historical Associations:

The house was built in 1953 for Frederick Albert and Cecelia Matsen, and designed by Austin architect Carlton Brush and J. Robert Buffler. Brush was the grandson of Seba Brush, who operated Brush Hardware Company on Congress Avenue in the late 19th century, and for whom Brush Square was named. Carlton Brush grew up with relatives in Nashville, Tennessee, and after his study of architecture, began practicing in Birmingham, Houston, and Dallas. When he moved to Austin, he joined professionally with Joseph Robert Buffler, a native Pennsylvanian who taught architecture at the University of Texas. Together they designed many houses and churches in Austin, including the Kinney Avenue Baptist Church

and the Tarrytown Baptist Church. Brush was also likely the architect for many houses in the Wilshire Wood subdivision, as his brother was one of the developers there.

The house has been in the same family since it was built. The current owner's father, Frederick Albert Matsen (1913-2006) was a noted professor of chemistry and physics at the University of Texas. Born in Wisconsin, Matsen graduated from the University of Wisconsin, and earned his Ph.D. in chemistry and physics from Princeton University. After teaching for a year at Bucknell College in Pennsylvania, Matsen moved to Austin in 1942 and joined the faculty of the University of Texas, where he taught chemistry and physics. He pioneered the use of computers in his teaching, and was responsible for the creation of the first computer center on the UT campus in 1950, serving as the first director of the University Computation Center. His daughter, Megan Matsen Meisenbach, is a talented musician, touring as a flute soloist and a chamber musician. Her husband, Dr. Albert E. Meisenbach, has been a physician in Austin since 1974. They moved into the house to take care of her parents in their last years, and have owned the house since her parents' deaths in 2006.

PARCEL NO.: 01120003160000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot 3, Outlots 12 through 14, Division E, Vance Park.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$7,468 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$1,747.

APPRAISED VALUE: \$675,000

PRESENT USE: Residence

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNER: Megan Matsen Meisenbach

DATE BUILT: ca. 1953

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Gutters were added to the house in the 1960s, and a rainwater collection system was installed in the back yard in 2008. A small work room on the north side was extended by 3 feet to allow space for laundry facilities.




ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Frederick and Cecelia Matsen (1953)

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.

LOCATION MAP



1" = 200'

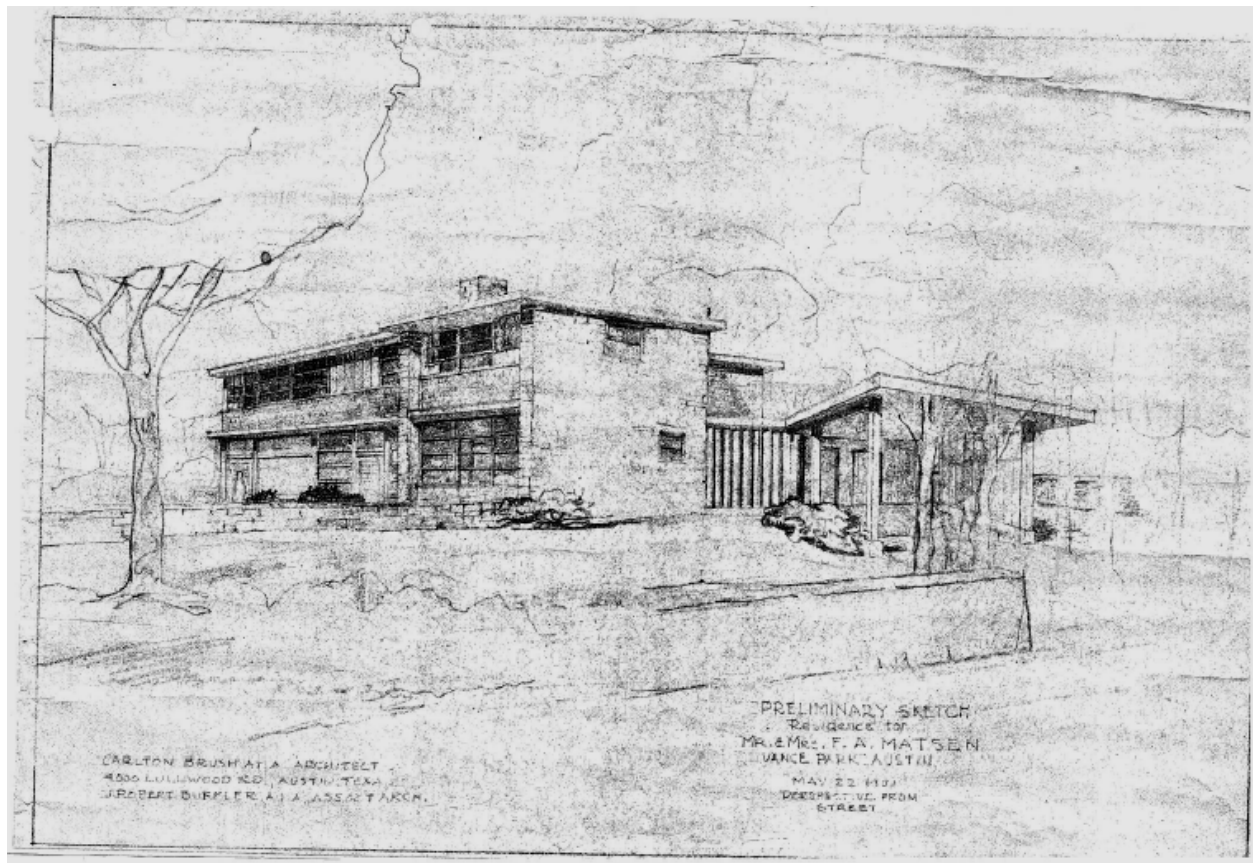
-  **SUBJECT TRACT**
-  **ZONING BOUNDARY**
-  **PENDING CASE**
- OPERATOR: S. MEEKS**

HISTORIC ZONING

ZONING CASE#: C14H-2010-0012
 ADDRESS: 1800 SN GABRIEL ST
 SUBJECT AREA: 0.000 ACRES
 GRID: J23
 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.





I. A. Matsen 1800 San Gabriel St.
 38 3 - 12 E
 90
 Vance Park
 Masonry and frame residence with carport
 attached.
 52384 10-29-52 \$23,000.00
 Carlton Brush

9

Building permit to Matsen for the construction of the house (1952). Carlton Brush is listed as the builder of the house.

Receipt No. 20663 Application for Sewer Connection N^o 32236
 Austin, Texas 10-28-1953
 To the Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Division, City of Austin, Texas.
 Sir:-
 I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by
F. A. Matsen at 1800 San Gabriel Street,
 further described as Lot 3 Block 12 Division 12
 subdivision Vance Park Plat 33, which is to be used as a residence
 In this place there are to be installed 1 fixtures. Plumbing Permit No. 11-2-53-BF
 I agree to pay the City of Austin, the regular ordinance charge.
 Depth at Prop. Line 2' at R Respectfully,
 Stub-Out } 3 1/2' N of S.D. Hammer & Bros
 Connected, (Location)
 Date 11-16-53 Consolidated By Plumber
 By Carson
 NOTE: Connection Instruction 6' Sewer at SW Corner, in right
1 3/4' S of 6' Stub 2.5' N of S.D. Street B-1694
main 5' N of S.D. (field) for Return

Sewer service application by F.A. Matsen (1953)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT E N^o 11649
 Austin, Texas
 Received of F. A. MATSEN Date 2-14-57
 Address 1800 SAN GABRIEL
 Amount 10.00
 Plumber CLAYTON Size of Tap 1 1/2"
 Date of Connection 2-26-57
 Size of Tap Made 1 1/2"
 Size Service Made 1 1/2"
 Size Main Tapped 6" C.F.
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 2.5'
 From No. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 2.5'
 Location of Meter CORR
 Type of Box LOW
 Depth of Main in St. 3'
 Depth of Service Line 3'
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 16'
 Checked by Engr. Dept. 3-25-57 BSM
 No. Fittings Size
 Corp. Cock 1 1/2"
 Elbow 1 1/2"
 St. Elbow 1 1/2"
 Bushing 1 1/2"
 Reducer 1 1/2" to 1"
 Lead Conn. 2
 Nipples 1 1/2" x 3"
 Union 1
 Plug 1
 Tee 1
 Stop 1
 Box 1
 Lid 1
 Valves 1 1/2"
 Job No. W-323700-502
 Req. No. 1

INDEXED

Water service permit to F.A. Matsen (1957)

A. APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC ZONING

OK to go
SS
3-23-10

PROJECT INFORMATION:

1047561

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY	
APPLICATION DATE: <u>3/25/10</u>	FILE NUMBER(S) <u>C14H-2010-001A</u>
TENTATIVE HLC DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE PC or ZAP DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE CC DATE: _____	
CASE MANAGER _____	CITY INITIATED: YES / NO
APPLICATION ACCEPTED BY: <u>Carmen</u>	ROLLBACK: YES/NO

BASIC PROJECT DATA:

1. OWNER'S NAME: Megan Matsen Meisenbach
2. PROJECT NAME: MATSEN HOUSE
3. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (or Range): 1800 San Gabriel Street, Austin TX
ZIP 78701 COUNTY TRAVIS

AREA TO BE REZONED:

4. ACRES .3191	(OR)	SQ.FT. 13,900 sq. ft. (139 X 100)			
5. ZONING AND LAND USE INFORMATION:					
EXISTING ZONING	EXISTING USE	TRACT# (IF MORE THAN 1)	ACRES / SQ. FT.	PROPOSED USE	PROPOSED ZONING
SF-3	<u>residential</u>	_____	_____	<u>residential</u>	SF-3H
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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

W-shal Creek
J 23

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (SUBDIVISION REFERENCE OR METES AND BOUNDS):

10a. SUBDIVISION REFERENCE: Name: Vance Park, Lot 3 (of Outlots 12-14, Division E)
Plat Book: 4 Page Number: 336
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: #20006198364 and #2006207858 **TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.** 01120003160000

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. x 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: Megan Matsen Meisenbach NAME: Megan Matsen Meisenbach
FIRM NAME: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: 512-940-2615 cell
STREET ADDRESS: 1800 San Gabriel Street
CITY: Austin STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 78701
EMAIL ADDRESS: Meisenbach Megan <MMEISENBACH@austin.rr.com>

AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

17. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION
SIGNATURE: Phoebe Allen NAME: Phoebe Allen
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 444-1326, 627-8170 c
STREET ADDRESS: 2510 Cedarview Drive
CITY: Austin STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 78704
CONTACT PERSON: Phoebe Allen TELEPHONE NUMBER: 444-1326, 627-8170c
EMAIL ADDRESS: phoebezink@gmail.com

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY:

SCANNED

C. 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.**

Megan Matsen Meisenbach Mar 18, 2010
Signature Date

Megan Matsen Meisenbach
Name

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.**

Megan Matsen Meisenbach 3-18-2010
Signature Date

Megan Matsen Meisenbach
Name

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

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

I, Megan Matsen Meisenbach 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

1800 San Gabriel, Austin, TX 78701
(Address or Legal Description)

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.

Megan Meisenbach
(Applicant's signature)

3-18-2010
(Date)

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

NO 1054697

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 01-1200-0316-0000

PROPERTY OWNER:

MEISENBACH MEGAN
1800 SAN GABRIEL ST
AUSTIN, TX 78701-1031

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

LOT 3 OLT 12-14 DIV E VANCE PARK

ACRES .0000 MIN% .000000000000 TYPE

SITUS INFORMATION: 1800 SAN GABRIEL ST AUSTIN

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:
UNPAID FEES:
INTEREST ON FEES:
COMMISSION:
TOTAL DUE ==>

ALL PAID
* NONE *
* NONE *
* NONE *
ALL PAID

TAXES PAID FOR YEAR 2009 \$14,046.50

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 03/09/2010

Fee Paid: \$10.00

Nelda Wells Spears
Tax Assessor-Collector

By: 

SCANNED
SCANNED

Matsen House

1800 San Gabriel Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Prepared in March of 2010 for Megan Matsen & Bert Meisenbach, Owners

By Phoebe Allen, 512-444-1326, phoebezink@gmail.com

SUMMARY

Perhaps the most "modern" in style in the Judges' Hill neighborhood, the Matsen House was built in 1952-53 by **Frederick Albert Matsen**, distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Physics at the University of Texas at Austin, and his wife, **Cecelia Kirkegaard Matsen**.

The Matsens worked with Austin architect **Carlton Brush**, in association with J. Robert Buffler, to design their Mid-Century Modern home with influences from the International and Shingle styles. **Frank Lloyd Wright** was a strong influence in the design, as the Matsens were from Racine, Wisconsin, where Wright was active. The Matsens' daughter owns and resides in the home.

Architectural Description

The two-story Matsen House is constructed of Oak Hill limestone walls and exterior cedar shakes on a wood frame. A one-story carport with storage space along the north wall is attached to the house. The house makes good use of cross ventilation and sits on the lot in a diagonal in order to receive the cross-breezes. The foundation slab was laid on six feet of gravel to prevent movement typical in the neighborhood. Features of the Mid Century Modern and International styles include several which are applicable to the Matsen House:

- 1. Tied to the land:** The spilt level of the Matsen House conforms to the natural slope, with large overhangs, a large screened porch at the rear, and a large cement terrace on the south. The driveway along the north side of the property follows the horse path used by the 1851 Robertson-Lucy-Vance estate and is still lined with elm trees. A stacked stone and masonry wall four to five feet high leaves the south end of the house from the central stone wall, parallel with the street, and curves west toward the rear property line, breaking for a wrought iron gate along the front/east side; a wrought iron fence continues along the rear/west property boundary.
- 2. Horizontals:** The Matsen House has a flat roof with deep overhangs, horizontal beams on the screened porch and windows with 2/2 and 3/3 horizontal lights. A large horizontal expanse is held up by an iron pole in the living/dining room.
- 3. Regularity, not symmetry:** The living/dining room, with 11.5 foot ceilings, has a large volume and dominates the house. It has a feeling of regularity in its proportions with the centered picture window flanked by double sliding doors. Large windows are repeated frequently.
- 4. Intrinsic elegance of materials:** The materials of the Matsen House include seven iron poles, (one in the living room, two in the carport, plus four poles supporting the stair railing), asbestos boards in the overhangs and carport, cement floors downstairs, oak floors upstairs, and exterior natural cedar shakes. Two two-story, parallel limestone walls support the house - one on the front/east façade and a second which penetrates the living room, becoming the fireplace and a sitting ledge, partially bisecting the house north to south. The central interior wall starts on the ground level by the short stairway as a planter in the living room and soars to become the fireplace wall, rising to 11.5 feet at the ceiling. The chimney is also limestone. The wall continues to the upstairs boys room and exits at the living room/study as the southern retaining wall. The wall does not appear in the girl's room.

5. Design flexibility: The living/dining room of the Matsen House is one large space. It is very adaptable and has been used by the Matsens for house concerts, dinner parties for foreign scientists and receptions.

6. Open, light and airy: The entry of this 2,338 square foot home opens to a large living-dining room with large windows and high ceilings – a beautiful effect from an idea of Wright. Built-in birch veneer cabinets and interior doors were lightened or “pickled” by the Matsens, who applied a white oil paint to the wood and rubbed it off with linseed oil. Adding to the openness is a minimal use of hallways—only one short hallway downstairs and one L shaped hallway upstairs. The Matsen living/dining room opens to the outdoors with two huge sliding doors that lead to a large screened porch with adjoining cement patio. The screened porch was often used for dining. Upstairs, the roof patio lets in the breeze, as did the attic fan closet (fan removed when air conditioning was installed). The architects oriented the house to accommodate the prevailing breezes, which were noted on the plans. The living/dining room and master bedroom are surrounded by windows on three sides. The original Anderson windows are double-hung wood, with either three/three or two/two horizontal lights; there is one picture window on the west façade. The ripple glass sidelight at the front door is original, as is the 1/1 pebble-glass window in the downstairs bath. There is a total of 27 windows, most large. The living/dining area has four windows (6'8"x3'8") plus one picture window; the kitchen has two windows (5'9"x 3'7"); the downstairs study has three windows (5'3"x3'1"); the stairwell one (5'9"x3'8"); upstairs bedrooms have nine windows (4'2"x 3'11"), plus laundry window and five small windows 5'2"x3'3" (as measured from inside the window sills).

Alterations

The integrity of the house is solid, with few exterior or interior changes other than the Matsen's 1960s addition of metal gutters, which now contribute to a 5,000-gallon rainwater collection system installed in the back yard in July of 2008. The original owners extended a small utility/work room on the north side by three feet to include space for a washer/dryer; the roofline is lower than the original at this point, which is not visible from the street front. Doors are original to the house with the exception of the front door, a solid wood door - which was replaced with a similar¹ door due to weather deterioration, and a side kitchen door - which was replaced with a wood door with glass panels to allow more light to enter. Screen doors are original. Porches are original and unchanged.

Cement floors downstairs were unfinished at first; the Matsens later added wall-to-wall carpet. Matsen's daughter has removed the carpet and stained the concrete floors, using throw rugs rather than carpet. Upstairs floors are original oak. The kitchen and baths have original tiles. Only the kitchen sink and one bathroom sink have been replaced. All other fixtures are original.

Architect: Carlton Brush, in association with J. Robert Buffler

Eugene Carlton Brush (1895-1987) was the grandson of Mary Ann Bradley (1829-1870) of Leeds, England, and **Seba Bogart Brush** (1827-1874), who came to Texas from their home in New Jersey in 1854 in a covered wagon and set up a general store and tinsmith shop on Congress between Fifth and Sixth Streets. Brush prospered in Austin and landed a contract to roof the Governor's Mansion then under construction. He made several trips between Austin and New

¹ The front door hardware was changed to a more substantial locking system, and a mail slot was added.

York delivering cotton and purchasing general merchandise for his Austin store between 1861 and 1865, and moved his family back to New Jersey after the Civil War; following his wife's death he returned to Austin with his children. **Brush Square** in Austin is named for Seba Brush. His son George Austin Brush (1855-?) married Ida Harris (1866-1959) in Nashville in 1888. George continued the family business in Austin as Brush Hardware at Ninth and Congress.

George's son Carlton was sent to live with his mother's parents in Nashville, where he attended high school and studied architecture. He married Sarah Elmira Curry of Nashville in 1919, and after 1930² worked as an architect in Birmingham, Houston and Dallas before coming to Austin. According to the City Directory, he and his wife lived on Lullwood Road in the Wilshire Wood subdivision east of IH35 and the Country Club, from 1953 to 1964. He was likely an architect for Wilshire Wood; his brother **George Harris Brush** was associated with the subdivision's developers Walling, Bradfield & Brush in the 1950s; Bradfield & Brush were also listed in 1947 as the agents and developers of Vance Park. A Sunday advertisement in the American Statesman on May 25, 1941 indicates that the firm had also "guided Pemberton Heights." Carlton and Elvira Brush had three children – Carlton (1921-), Mae Harris Wilks (c1927-), and Elizabeth Peurifoy (c1925-). E. Carlton Brush died in Richardson, Texas in March of 1987.³

Carlton Brush and **Joseph Robert Buffler** (1903-1955) were professionally associated in the design of numerous residences and church projects in Austin that included Shoalcrest Baptist, Kinney Avenue Baptist, Hillcrest Baptist, and Tarrytown Baptist Churches, as well as the Baptist Student Center at The University of Texas. Buffler was born in Philadelphia and graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1925, and a master's in 1927. After a year's travel in Europe and North Africa, he taught at the University of Pennsylvania and entered private practice in 1931. After five years at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, he came to the University of Texas as Assistant Professor of Architecture in 1941, was promoted to associate professor in 1946, and full professor from 1951 until his premature death in 1955; he served as Assistant Director of the School of Architecture from 1951-53.⁴

The Matsen's contractor, Mr. Yule, did not complete his contract, and the Matsen family added much of the final finish work and painting.

Judges' Hill Neighborhood Context

Shoal Creek was the natural western boundary of Austin when Edwin Waller laid out the city's original one-square-mile grid in 1839. In order to found the City of Austin, the Congress of the Republic of Texas condemned the land in and surrounding the village of Waterloo in 1839, offering the former headright owners either money or land elsewhere in Texas as compensation. The lots inside the 1839 city plan, as well as "Outlots" beyond the "Original City" grid Waller laid out, were sold to the highest bidders.

The Matsen House is located in the **Judges' Hill neighborhood**, a few blocks walk northwest of the Texas State Capitol and southwest of The University of Texas campus. The

² Brush and his family lived in Nashville in 1930, according to the 1930 census.

³ Austin City Directories 1949-1965. 1930 Census, Nashville, TN. Brush, Seba Bogart, Austin History Center vertical files.

⁴ Roessner et al, "Joseph Robert Buffler," In Memoriam, Dec. 7, 1955.

<http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/2000-2001/memorials/SCANNED/buffler.pdf> accessed March 12, 2010.

neighborhood takes its name from the many judges and attorneys who built homes in the area, beginning in 1851, just after Austin was selected as the state capitol, with **Elijah Sterling Clack Robertson** (1820-1879), whose father had been the empresario of Robertson Colony. Robertson's home, built on a bluff overlooking Shoal Creek, was followed by several more along West Avenue, the western boundary of the 1839 Original City of Austin.

Adjacent to the downtown business district, the homes in this neighborhood are some of the oldest in Austin. Spanning a period from the 1850s through the turn of the century, the structures provide insight into the transitioning architectural styles and building materials of the time. Many elegant, historic homes still line both sides of West Avenue including the landmark 1855 Chandler-Shelley House, also known as **Westhill** at 1703 West Avenue, and the 1870 **Denny-Holliday House** at 1803 West Avenue. There have been three general periods of activity in the Judges' Hill area. First is that beginning during the Republic and running through World War I, roughly 1840 to 1914. The style is reflected in Abner Cook homes and other early buildings. With the Victorian era came a more formal regimen of manners and social style, reflected in homes of the time. A number of these have been lost. The second phase of development includes the period between the two world wars, 1914 to 1945. It includes primarily Italianate, Colonial and Classical Revival, and Arts and Crafts Bungalow styles. The third phase, following WWII, saw the addition of a few homes in the post-war Ranch and Mid Century Modern styles.

The Judges' Hill neighborhood continues to experience controversial revitalization and conversion of some single family residences to professional offices. On West Avenue, for example, two blocks from San Gabriel, is a series of three modern apartment and condominium buildings that replaced exceptional historic homes, including two in the 1700 and 1800 blocks: the Richardsonian Romanesque **Edward Mandell House** home at 1704 West Avenue, built in 1891 and demolished in 1967, and the **Angeline Townsend-Thad Thomson** home at 1802 West Avenue, built in 1868 and demolished in 1962. Other "ghosts" of the Judges' Hill neighborhood include the 1882 home of Judge A.S. Walker and his son-in-law Rector Thomson at 1508 Rio Grande, the Chiles home at 1606 West Avenue, and the 1909 Haskell Caswell Jr. home at 1500 West Avenue, demolished by the widening of 15th Street, as well as the Frank Brown home that predated it.

The Judges' Hill Neighborhood Association is in the process of nominating the neighborhood as a City of Austin Historic District and National Register Historic District.

Property and Building History: *Lot 3, Outlot 12-14, Division E, Vance Park*

E.S.C. Robertson owned three adjacent outlots (12, 13 and 14) by 1852. These three outlots transferred hands several times during the war years before being conveyed in 1871 to Sampson and Henricks, and in 1879 to **Sam T. Scott** and his wife Mary, then passed down to her daughter **Julia Vance** in 1909 before being subdivided as Vance Park in 1947. The 1851 Robertson-Lucy-Vance House, demolished in 1966, was still standing next door, at 1802 San Gabriel, when the Mid-Century Modern Matsen House was constructed. The Matsen driveway, lined with elm trees, follows the route of the road to the former stables of the old estate.

The present owner, Megan Matsen Meisenbach, grew up with her brother and parents in the home from 1953 to 1969, and has lived there from 2000 to the present. Megan and her husband Dr. Albert E. Meisenbach III, have owned the home since her parents' deaths in 2006.

Significant Persons Associated with Building

Frederick Albert Matsen (1913-2006), professor of chemistry & physics at the University of Texas at Austin, and his wife, **Cecelia Kirkegaard** Matsen, raised two children in their Judges' Hill home – Dr. Frederick Albert (Rick) Matsen III⁵, and musician Megan Cecelia Matsen Meisenbach. Rick's children include Susanna Lovell Matsen, Frederick Albert Matsen IV, and Laura Jane Megan Matsen.

Al Matsen was born on July 26, 1913 in Racine, Wisconsin to Danish immigrant parents Frederick Albert Matsen Sr. and Karen 'Carrie' Iverson Madsen. Al was the only surviving child of his mother and father, a seamstress and barber. He was the first college graduate in the family, earning his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin in 1937. He completed his Ph.D. in both chemistry & physics at Princeton University in 1941. After a year at Bucknell University as an associate professor, he joined the staff of the University of Texas at Austin, where he did research and taught for over 50 years. His first research was on the theory of liquids. In 1945 he spent one year at the University of Chicago working with Robert Mulliken, Clemens Roothaan and John Platt. He developed a spectral theory good enough to impress Linus Pauling, a member of the Guggenheim Committee. In 1950 Matsen received a Guggenheim Fellowship to Oxford, England where he studied under the renowned Professor Charles Coulson at King's College London and Oxford (1951-52); the award was for studies in chemical physics covering interpretation of electronic spectra of aromatic molecules.

Matsen was the pivotal force in convincing UT's administration to establish their first computer center in 1950. According to Doug Klein, a Matsen post-doc and professor at Texas A&M University at Galveston, "I think that UT was one of the first universities to view the computer as a resource like a library with access to be provided to all faculty, and ultimately all students. I think that his foresight in the general use of the computer in research and in education is a landmark idea and attitude."⁶

Program notes from the UT Class Convocation of the College of Natural Sciences, December 5, 1998, in which Matsen was the guest speaker, state:

"In a long and distinguished career at the University of Texas, Matsen explored the connections between chemistry and quantum mechanics, and was a pioneer in introducing advanced computational techniques to the UT campus. ... Matsen is widely recognized for his research in chemical physics and theoretical chemistry. His research into the applications of group theory to many-body problems is respected throughout the world. Even after his retirement he maintained an active research program in magnetism, superconductivity, and the foundations of quantum mechanics. Matsen was a pioneer in introducing the use of computers on the UT campus and arranged for a major gift of an IBM CPC machine from Humble Oil in 1958. Computation developed

⁵ Dr. Rick Matsen, M.D., an orthopedic surgeon, is the inventor of a titanium shoulder implant.

⁶ "Professor Frederick Albert Matsen, Chemistry, Biochemistry & Physics (1914-2006)", memorial website established 2010:

http://web.me.com/patandmel/UTexas_Physics_History/Frederick_Albert_Matsen.html

very rapidly at UT in part because UT President and fellow chemistry professor **Norman Hackerman** was subjected to an intense lobbying effort by Matsen. When the **University Computation Center** was established in the early 1960s, Dr. Matsen was named its first director. In 1979 he helped found the **Institute for Theoretical Chemistry**, which is made up of faculty from the departments of chemistry, biochemistry and chemical engineering. In this same period he was a principal in guiding the growth of the theoretical physics program and recruiting many of our best known faculty to the campus. In 1985 Dr. Matsen organized an important international conference on Supercomputers: Architectures, Algorithms and Scientific Computation. A year later The University acquired its own supercomputer. When Dr. Matsen retired from his teaching duties, his friends and family honored him by endowing the **F.A. Matsen Lectureship in the Theories of Matter**. As he approached his Emeritus title, Dr. Matsen chose to establish endowed graduate student fellowships in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and in the Department of Physics.”⁷

Matsen arranged perhaps the first quantum chemistry conference in 1956 at UT. In 1961 he received a National Science Foundation Senior post-doctoral Fellowship to the Institute Henri Poincaré in Paris, France. There his paper entitled “Sous-Algèbre de Complexes Associés in Spectroscopie Théorique” was communicated to the French Academy by the Nobel Laureate Prince Louis Broglie.

Doug Klein further comments, “His particular computational research almost entirely was focused on the description of the electronic structure of atoms and molecules. Relevant schemes for integral evaluation were developed and turned into operative computer programs in his group. There was a very comprehensive table of molecular integrals published from his group, *Quantum Chemistry Integrals and Tables*. Seminal work was done on a series of small diatomic molecules (most of less than five electrons), both in their ground states and excited states. Several renowned scientists working with computers came out of his group.”⁸ Matsen published over 200 papers and was the author or co-author of six books: *Premedical Physical Chemistry* (with Hackerman and Meyers (1950); *Quantum Chemistry Integrals and Tables* (with Miller and Gerhauser); *Vector Spaces and Algebras for Chemists and Physicists* (1970); *The Unitary Group in Quantum Chemistry* (with Ruben Pauncz, 1968); *Algorithms, Architectures and Scientific Computation* (with T. Tajima); *Science Tales*, a popular overview of great accomplishments in science.

Matsen pioneered a unique undergraduate honors chemistry course first called “The Vector Space Theory of Matter” and later “Theories of Matter” from the perspective of modern quantum mechanics. It is said that no other university or professor would have dared offer such a course at the time. For more than three decades he taught at UT, using an iconoclastic choice of algebraic quantum mechanical ideas – the course was often described as “mind-expanding” by the students exposed to his teaching. During the 1970s he **pioneered use of the computer in teaching**, especially in the context of his freshman chemistry course. He was a fellow of the American

⁷ Program for the UT Class Convocation of the College of Natural Sciences, December 5, 1998.
Contact: Dean Mary Ann Rankin

⁸ Oakes, Melvin. “Professor Frederick Albert Matsen, Chemistry, Biochemistry & Physics (1914–2006)”, memorial website, 2010,
http://web.mcm.com/patandmel/UTexas_Physics_History/Frederick_Albert_Matsen.html

Physical Society and a member of the International Academy of Quantum Molecular Science, and an Exxon consultant for 35 years, helping to develop the processes for the liquefaction & gasification of coal.

Scientific conferences and lecture invitations required many trips to Europe as well as Mexico, Peru and Japan, to confer with colleagues. The Matsen home in Austin hosted many internationally acclaimed scientists at the dining table. Matsen was a valued advisor to **Professors John Silber** and **Norman Hackerman** during their administrative careers at UT, and he was much involved in developing chemistry and physics at UT, particularly in choosing and recruiting candidates for chaired positions there.

In a 1993 article, Hackerman outlines how Matsen brought the first computer to the University of Texas:

“Perhaps the event of greatest significance toward the end of the decade was the department’s leadership in entering into the more than casual use of computation in the research process. Matsen had by now gone over to theoretical chemistry more or less fully. ... The specific event was a gift of an IBM CPC machine in 1958 from the Humble Co., engineered by Matsen. Interested faculty members and graduate students literally carried the machine into the building, installed it, and operated it with minimum involvement of higher authority, who were not yet aware of its potential significance. Excessive paperwork was thus avoided. Regardless of the method of insertion, its presence and use had a great effect on the department and especially in physical chemistry. It clearly led to more powerful instruments, and as computing capacity rose so did the need for greater capacity. The position of leadership this University has enjoyed ever since probably originated with the acquisition of the then very powerful CDC 6600 in 1966 and in the formation of a university computing center. This was leading edge computing hardware, and the institution has maintained that position ever since, as evidenced most recently by the creation of the UT System Center for High Performance Computing in 1986 ...”⁹

On September 1, 1997, Dr. Matsen became Professor Emeritus of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Department of Physics. Professor Matsen personally endowed two graduate fellowships in physics and theoretical chemistry. In a Nov. 3, 2009 letter to his daughter regarding Matsen’s charitable contributions to the University, Martha King, director of the Office of the Vice President for Development, wrote: “...your father played a major role, either as donor or as honoree, in these [endowments]. You should be particularly proud to note that the **F.A. Matsen Endowed Presidential Fellowship in Theoretical Chemistry**, accepted by the Board of Regents in 1997, was the first Endowed Presidential Fellowship created at the University. There are only 25 such endowments currently benefiting graduate students at the University.”

In 1988, colleagues, family, friends and former students endowed a Regents Lectureship on Theories of Matter to honor Matsen’s outstanding contributions in research & teaching.

His research was primarily in chemical physics, with much early interest in molecular electronic spectra. Upon his visit to Professor Coulson at Oxford in 1950, he became an early advocate of first-principles computational quantum chemistry, and published electronic-structure

⁹ Norman Hackerman and A. Campion, “Almost 50 Years of Physical Chemistry at the University of Texas,” *Annual Review of Physical Chemistry*, 1993, 44: 1-12. (page 6)

papers through the 1950s and '60s, first on atoms, then on diatomics, especially lithium hydride and numerous states of helium oxide, as well as some smaller species. This multi-configurational electronic-structure computation occupied much of his group's efforts through the 1950s on into the 1960s. With his visit to Paris his interest in group theory was heightened, so that he pursued some ligand-field theory for transition-metal complexes, but mainly it culminated in a long series of papers on "Spin-free Quantum Chemistry." Some of this concerned the clarification of the idea and role of spin, while some concerned related novel group algebraic ideas and techniques. This spin-free and symmetry-related research occupied much of his group's efforts from the 1960s on through the 1990s, with initial work focused on the symmetric group of permutations, and later work – especially after a short visit with Marcos Moshinsky in Mexico – focused on the unitary group, and related Lie algebras. This work was marked by a strong focus on the formal mathematics translated into a convenient but still abstract physical form, much of which could also be discerned in his freshmen chemistry course. From his group came a four-decade long string of more than three dozen doctoral students in chemistry and physics, and occasionally in computer science, who went into both industry and academia.

Additional honors and awards include: National Science Foundation Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, American Physical Society Fellow, Lowdin Distinguished Lecturer at Uppsala University Sweden, Fellow of International Academy of Quantum Molecular Science, and Establishment of the Annual R.A. Matsen Regental Lectures on the Theories of Matter. He was on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Chemical Society, International Journal of Quantum Chemistry, and Advances in Quantum Chemistry.

Professor Matsen was the embodiment of a committed deep-thinking researcher with interdisciplinary interests – a unique teacher with a style, methods and course-content unmimickable by those with a purely educational focus.¹⁰

Cecelia Christina Kirkegaard Matsen (1910-2006) was born to immigrant Danish parents Elenora and Peter Kirkegaard. 'Ceil' supervised her four younger siblings while her mother worked outside the home. Cecelia and Al met at the Racine Pure Milk Company where they both were employed. She studied singing and music at Wisconsin College and, after her marriage in 1938, at Bucknell University. As a soprano soloist, she won a medal in the Chicago-Land Music Festival at Soldiers' Field. While Al was finishing his studies at Princeton during the Depression, she helped support them by working for the Gallup Poll Company. Ceil sang in church choirs in Austin for over 30 years, at First English Lutheran and, beginning about 1963, at St. Martin's Lutheran.¹¹

Current Owners

¹⁰ Obituary of F.A. Matsen, Austin American Statesman, circa May 29, 2006. Various papers from the estate of Al Matsen, now in the hands of his daughter at the Matsen House. "Fall Convocation 1998," Focus On Science, The College of Natural Sciences at UT Austin, spring 1999, page 16. Program for the UT Class Convocation of the College of Natural Sciences, December 5, 1998. Oakes, Melvin. "Professor Frederick Albert Matsen, Chemistry, Biochemistry & Physics (1914-2006)", memorial website, 2010, http://web.me.com/patandmel/UTexas_Physics_History/Frederick_Albert_Matsen.html

¹¹ Obituary of Cecelia Matsen, Austin American Statesman, circa Jan. 27, 2006.

Megan Matsen Meisenbach is the daughter of the Matsens who built the house at 1800 San Gabriel. First prize winner of the National Flute Association's Chamber Music Competition and recipient of the National Endowment of the Arts Solo Recitalist Award, Megan Meisenbach has been repeatedly honored with yearly touring grants from the Mid-America Arts Alliance and the Texas Commission on the Arts. She has toured internationally and in 26 states as a flute soloist and chamber musician, and has recorded works from the standard repertoire as well as given premieres of new music.

Dr. Albert E. Meisenbach graduated from the University of Texas and from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston; he held an internship at Brackenridge Hospital. He has been a physician in Austin since 1974 providing patient care in clinics for the City of Austin and the University of Texas at Austin Health Center, and for several years he was Health Officer for the Austin Travis County Health Department.

CONCLUSION & JUSTIFICATION

The Matsen House merits historic landmark status as a Mid-Century Modern style home and for its importance to the City of Austin as the home of prominent physicist, chemist and professor, Al Matsen. The integrity of the home's exterior, as well as its interior, has been beautifully maintained and deserves preservation with status as a City of Austin Historic Landmark. The home continues to serve as a residence in a neighborhood where homes are increasingly utilized as businesses. Historic designation would help preserve the home and the integrity of Judges' Hill. The Judges' Hill Neighborhood Association supports the inclusion of this home into a future City of Austin and National Register Historic District.

F. 1: Historical Documentation - Deed Chronology

Deed Research for 1800 San Gabriel Street

Outlots 12, 13, 14 as related to 1800 San Gabriel Street

Date	Grantor/Grantee	Vol/page
21 Feb 1851	Texas patent #192 to James Cole, Outlot 14E	F/58
1 July 1851	James Cole to ESC Robertson , Outlot 14E, \$120	F/58-59
6 Nov 1851	Gov. Bell to ESC Robertson of Lot 13 Div. E, Outlot 13E	E/408-409
3 June 1852	Gov. C.P Hansborough Bell to John Hemphill Outot 12E	F/99
10 Aug 1852	John Hemphill to ESC Robertson , Outlot 12E, \$154	F/100
24 Feb 1859	ESC Robertson of Bell County to Milton W. Simms , Outlots 12,13,14E. \$2,000	N/97
27 Nov 1860	Lucy & M.W. Simms to Leonidas D. Carrington , 12-14, \$8500	P/193-194
25 Jan 1862	L.D. Carrington to M.W. Sims , 12-14, \$8500	P/323-324
23 May 1862	M.W. Sims to A. Henricks , 12-14, \$7500	P/408-09
1 June 1871	Henricks died in 1866, leaving wife Rachel A. Henricks and 3 daughters: Kate, J. Carter, Nellie; property was conveyed to George W. Sampson & Abram Henricks*	251/79
[*Note: Abner Cook built the Sampson-Henricks Building as a general merchandise store at 620 Congress in 1859]		
31 Dec 1879	Rachel A. Henricks, Kate Henricks, Nellie Henricks, Jennie Carter Henricks to Sam T. Scott , \$5000	48/537
15 Sept 1893	Sam T. Scott to wife Mary P. Scott , 12-14	107/596-599
23 Sept 1909	Estate of Mary P. Scott (died 28 Sept 1908) to Julia E. Vance	
25 Mar 1918	Julia Vance to Ewell Nalle , part of Outlot 12E	367/151-152
26 Apr 1932	Julia Vance to City. \$10,000. Parts of Lots 12 and 13, Division E, 12.848 acres, east side Shoal Creek between 17 th & 19 th .	Vol. 480, page 203
6 Sept. 1934	City to Public for designated street. Portions of Outlots 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, & 13, Division E, from 12 th to 19 th for Shoal Creek Blvd.	
7 Aug. 1947	Julia Vance to the Public. Owner of Vance Park, Section One, for residential use between Nalle and 19 th , San Gabriel to Shoal Creek Blvd. estate of Julia Vance, deceased.	Vol. 867, page 457, and 14/239
(Notes: Julia E. Vance is the surviving daughter of Mary P. Scott, wife of Sam T. Scott, to whom the premises known as lots or outlots 12, 13, and 14 in Division E were conveyed by Rachel A. Henricks by deed recorded in Vol. 48, pp. 537-38. Virginia Lucy is her cousin. Bradfield & Brush , developers and agents.)		
19 Dec 1953	Julia Vance (died 14 June 1950) to F. A. & Cecelia Matsen. Plat Book 4 page 336. Book 1150, Page 286	
April 5, 1951	Ama Ford Vance Norfleet & husband, of Caddo Parish, and George Shelley as executors of Julia Vance estate, deceased, to F. A. Matsen and wife Cecelia K. Matsen. \$1,500 note, \$18,000. Lot 3, Vance Park. Plat 4/336. Subject to Vance Park Addition, Book 852, p 441.	Vol 1150, page 286.
10 Oct 2006	Cecelia & Al Matsen estate to Megan Meisenbach. Lot 3, Vance Park. Plat Book 4, page 336.	#20006198364 and #2006207858

SCANNED

F. 2: Historical Documentation - Occupancy History

Occupancy Research for 1800 San Gabriel

Year	Occupant Name and Reference	Source
1953	Matson, Fredk A. (Cecilia) prof UofT [sic]	
1955	Matsen, F. Albert (Cecilia K.) director spectroscopic research laby UofT	
1960	Matsen, F. Albert (Cecilia) prof UofT	
1965	Matsen, F. Albert (Cecelia) prof UofT	
1970	Matsen, F. Albert (Cecelia) prof U of T	
1975	Matsen, F. Albert (Cecelia) prof U of T	
1980	Matsen, Fredk A. & Cecelia, prof U of T	
1985	Matsen, Fredk A. & Cecelia, prof U of T	
1990	Matsen, Fredk A. prof U of T	

Owner Megan Meisenbach reports that the family had an unlisted phone number due to a robbery at some point, which may account for the missing house in further city directories.

1996	Matsens nor 1800 San Gabriel are listed [directory changes to Polk Cross Reference	Directory]
2000	Matsens nor 1800 San Gabriel are listed	
2003	Matsen is not listed. 1800 San Gabriel: "no current listing"	
2005	No current directory listing.	

According to Megan Meisenbach, Albert E. 'Bert' and Megan Meisenbach lived at 1800 San Gabriel to care for her parents from 2000 to 2006, while the Meisenbach legal residence was 7609 Shoal Creek Boulevard. Cecelia Matsen died in January 2006. Frederick Albert Matsen died in May 2006. From 2006 to the present, Bert and Megan have owned and occupied 1800 San Gabriel.



WINS FELLOWSHIP — Dr. Frederick Albert Matsen, associate professor of chemistry and physics at the University of Texas and a former Racine resident, has been awarded a fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation of New York. The Guggenheim Fellowship was awarded to Dr. Matsen for studies in chemical physics covering interpretation of electronic spectra of aromatic molecules. Dr. Matsen, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Matsen, 1112 Munroe Ave., graduated from the Pratt School and Washington Park High School here, the University of Wisconsin, and Princeton University, where he took his doctorate in 1940. He was named to the staff of the University of Texas in 1942. He has written several technical articles.

Chemical Physicist Opens First Of New Series of Lectures

Washington State University's chemical physics program is sponsoring a series of lectures by Prof. F. A. Matsen, distinguished chemical physicist from the University of Texas, from Feb. 17 through 28.

MATSEN IS the first in what is planned to be an annual series of distinguished visiting lecturers. He will deliver nine lectures and seminars, teach an accelerated short course and consult with students and faculty.

The lectureship is made possible under a \$550,000 National Science Foundation departmental science development grant received last year, according to Dr. Harold Dodgen, program chairman.

CHEMICAL PHYSICS is an interdisciplinary program carried on by the departments of physics and chemistry. Formal approval of a doctoral program is pending.

Matsen is known for his research in molecular physics and the application of symmetry principles to chemistry and physics. He has published more than 100 research papers and technical reports in his field.

He is a fellow of the American Physical Society, serves on the chemistry and computer panels of the National Science Foundation and is a consultant to the National Institute of Health and the Esso Research and Engineering Co.

HE IS A RECIPIENT of the Petroleum Research Fund Excellence Award and is a member of the editorial boards of the Journal of the American Chemical Society and the International Journal of Quantum Chemistry.

Matsen established and staffed the first computation center at the University of Texas, where he has been a faculty member since 1942. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and his doctorate from Princeton University. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow at the Universities of London and Oxford and an NSF senior postdoctoral fellow at the University of Paris.

HIS INTRODUCTORY lecture

surveyed the applications of modern algebra to the physical and biological sciences. The talk is intended to be of interest to all scientists and mathematicians and for persons interested in the relations between scientific models, philosophy of science, and pedagogy of science.

He will deliver two other lectures of general appeal, "A New Freshman Chemistry Course," slated for 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, in Fulmer 201; and "Epistemology of Science," Tuesday, Feb. 25. This lecture is set for 2 p.m. in room 175 of Sloan Hall.

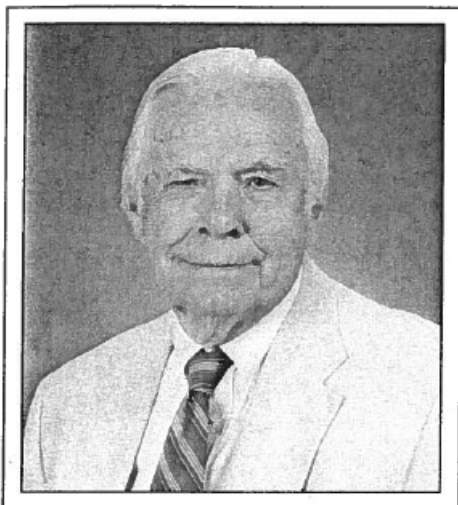
THE FIRST involves a des-course Matsen teaches at Texas. The latter presents Matsen's views on the meaning of

physical theories and the philosophy of science.

Matsen will present a short course of five lectures on Lie Algebra and its applications. It is a mathematical system with particular application in chemistry and physics.

These will be held Feb. 19, 21, 24, 26, and 28, and are set for Fulmer 205 at 2 p.m.

The course is intended for advanced students who are interested in the latest theories of atomic and nuclear structure, elementary particles and visual perception.



Frederick Al Matsen

Born and raised in Racine, Wisconsin, Dr. Matsen finished his baccalaureate degree at the University of Wisconsin in 1937. He completed his Ph.D. in Physics and Physical Chemistry at Princeton University in 1941 and joined The University of Texas at Austin in 1942 as an Assistant Professor of Physics and Chemistry.

After nearly 46 years, Dr. Matsen retired from his very successful teaching duties in 1988. Among his unique contributions to education, Dr. Matsen taught a freshmen course in chemistry, "The Vector Space Theory of Matter" from the perspective of modern quantum mechanics. It is said that no other

university or professor would have dared offer such a course; "Every teacher claims that chemistry can be ultimately reduced to physics, but it took Dr. Matsen to prove it..." a letter written by one class of Dr. Matsen's 603 Freshmen students some 25 years ago.

Professor Matsen is widely recognized for his research in chemical physics and theoretical chemistry. He has published over 250 scientific articles and has authored three books. His research into the applications of group theory to many-body problems is respected throughout the world. Even after his retirement he maintained an active research program in magnetism, superconductivity, and the foundations of quantum mechanics. On September 1, 1997 Dr. Matsen became Professor Emeritus of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Department of Physics.

Matsen was a pioneer in introducing the use of computers on the UT campus and arranged for a major gift of an IBM CPC machine from Humble Oil in 1958. Computation developed very rapidly at UT in part because UT President and fellow Chemistry Professor Norman Hackerman was subjected to an intense lobbying effort by Matsen. When the University Computation Center was established in the early 1960's, Dr. Matsen was named its first Director. In 1979, he helped found the Institute for Theoretical Chemistry. In this same period, he was a principal in guiding the growth of the theoretical physics program and recruiting many of our best known faculty to the campus. In 1985 Dr. Matsen organized an important international conference on Supercomputers: Architectures, Algorithms and Scientific Computation. A year later The University acquired its own supercomputer.

When Dr. Matsen retired from his teaching duties, his friends and family honored him by endowing the F. A. Matsen Lectureship in the Theories of Matter. As he approached his Emeritus title, Dr. Matsen chose to establish endowed graduate student fellowships in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and in the Department of Physics.

One of the major concerns of The Judges Hill Neighborhood, the only remaining predominantly residential neighborhood in downtown Austin, is to preserve its historic roots and, in so doing, the historic roots of the City of Austin. With their applications for historic status for their homes, the owners of the above-referenced properties, Megan Matsen Meisenbach and Jay Tassin, have stepped forward to help lead this struggle at a critical time in our city's history. As we once again face pressures for rapid downtown development, I want you to know that their applications have the overwhelming support of their neighbors in the Judges Hill Neighborhood. We hope that the Historic Landmark Commission will look favorably on their applications and in so doing transform their homes from mere personal assets to assets also for the history of the City of Austin and for our historic neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ben Schotz, President of the Judges Hill Neighborhood Association

Landmark Commission

City of Austin

RE: Support of Applicants for Landmark Status

- 1) McClendon-Kozmetsky House at 1001 W 17th
- 2) Matsen House at 1800 San Gabriel

Dear Landmark Commission Chair, Members, and Preservation Officer:

As owners of the mid-century modern Granger House and Perch, a national, state and city landmark, we are very sensitive to the need to preserve mid-century modern architecture and design within the City of Austin. This particular style of architecture is often under appreciated and susceptible to demolition.

As residents of the Judges Hill Neighborhood, we as well as others across the nation have come to appreciate the diversity of architecture that is contained within this last remaining garden district in the City of Austin. There is discussion about a possible homes tour of our neighborhood by the National Historic Trust during its fall conference in 2010 hosted in Austin.

Both homes listed on this communication are worthy of historic designation and deserve your full support.

Very truly yours,

Jeff Harper and Mark Seeger

The Granger House and Perch

805 W 16th Street

Austin, Texas 78701-1519

Re: Matsen House, April 26th, 2010

Dear Historic Landmark Commissioners and Mr. Steve Sadowsky:

The significance of supporting Landmark status for Matsen house is two-fold. First, it's an important mid-century modern home designed by UT architect Joseph Buffler as a unique adaptation of the international style to its Austin setting. Secondly, it forms an important trio of such homes with its co-applicant McClendon-Kozmetsky House and current landmark Granger House in Judges' Hill, the only sizable, intact historic neighborhood in Downtown Austin. The locale has become, as a result of continued preservation efforts, an irreplaceable but threatened asset as downtown's own historic garden district.

In terms of its architectural interest, Matsen house eschews prior styles and is nicely adapted to its immediate environs. It is rotated 45 degrees to the street, which allows its prominent rear screened porch to take advantage of predominant southerly summer breezes. Its position also generates a sense of outdoor spaciousness and privacy for itself and its neighbors not otherwise achievable with a traditional 90-degree orientation and tiny alley-like side setbacks.

The house is a basic cube with a virtually flat roof, a characteristically open floor plan and large square windows. The shingle exterior and the natural stone wall which bisect its interior warm and soften its Bauhaus bones and concrete ground level floors. The architect worked with the natural slope and his rotation of the home allowed him to retain the elm-lined horse path of its northern neighbor, the (razed) 1802 San Gabriel Robertson-Vance estate, as the driveway. The dominant horizontal lines of the house appealed to the Matsens, familiar with Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture from their native Racine, Wisconsin.

The importance of preserving this trio of midcentury homes in Judges' Hill is demonstrated in a recent request by the National Trust to host a candlelight walking tour during their conference. They selected Judges' Hill because it is "an intact inner-city neighborhood with a variety of architectural styles — Victorian to Arts and Crafts to Mid-Century Modern -- and a depth of colorful Austin history." Designating Matsen House and fellow nominee McClendon-Kozmetsky House will preserve a critical mass of mid-century homes as examples of a third wave of design and construction from Judges' Hill's rich history.

Last year we got a wake-up call with a city proposal to upzone many of our lots, including single family residential properties, to 120-foot heights to encourage development. In meeting with the City Council during these efforts, it became clear that a Local Historic District would give Judges' Hill the standing to merit such protections, and that more homes designated as landmarks would be steps on that path. Landmark designation will help protect this mid-century home and its

surrounding neighborhood from developer pressure to raze historic structures as land values increase.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration in preserving this critically located example of midcentury modernism in downtown Austin.

Sincerely,

Jay Tassin
Resident of Judges' Hill