Texas Historical Commission staff (AD), 8/14/2009, rev. 11/3/2009 Official Texas Historical Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post for attachment to brick Travis County (Job #09TV03) Subject BH, (Atlas ) UTM: 14 619587 E 3351217 N Location: Austin, 2210 Windsor Road

# DAVIS-SIBLEY HOUSE

AUSTIN ARCHITECT HAL THOMSON DESIGNED THIS 1931 HOME FOR EMMA LEVISON DAVIS. SHE WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE SETTLEMENT CLUB AND THE WIDOW OF PIONEER AUSTIN GROCER NELSON DAVIS. THE HOME PASSED TO THE DAVIS' SON, THEODORE, UPON EMMA'S 1954 DEATH; D. J. AND JANE SIBLEY PURCHASED THE HOME IN 1962. THE SPANISH ECLECTIC STYLE HOUSE FEATURES A CROSS GABLE FLOOR PLAN WITH STUCCO-FINISHED EXTERIOR WALLS, A FRONT ELEVATION ARCADE AND A SQUARE TOWER ABOVE A CLAY TILE ROOF. HISTORIC MATERIALS INCLUDE HANDMADE TILE, HEAVY TIMBER FLOORING AND TRUSSES, IRONWORK BY FORTUNAT WEIGL AND FURNISHINGS AND FINISHES BY NEW YORK CITY DECORATOR PIERRE DUTEL.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2009 MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

# RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS: 2009 Official Texas Historical Marker Sponsorship Application Form

Valid October 15, 2008 to January 15, 2009 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (building marker) requests only. Please see separate forms for either Historic Texas Cemeteries or subject markers.

Proposed marker topic (official title will be determined by the THC): Davis-Sibley House

## **County: Travis County**

Town (nearest county town on current state highway map): Austin

## Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above: 2210 Windsor Road, 78703

### **Marker Coordinates:**

If you know the location coordinates of the proposed marker site, enter them in one of the formats below:UTM ZoneEastingNorthingLat:Long:(deg, min, sex or decimal degrees)

Otherwise, give a precise verbal description here : 2210 Windsor Road, 78703. LOT 8 & N 20 FT OF LOT 7 ENFIELD D

NOTE: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers must be placed at the structure being marked.

**Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers definition:** Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) markers are awarded to structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical associations and architectural significance. RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure, and the designation is required for this type of marker. The RTHL designation becomes effective upon approval by the THC. Official Texas Historical Markers signify the RTHL designation, which comes only through application to and approval by the THC and must include public display of an Official Texas Historical Marker. Owners of RTHL-designated structures must give the THC 60 days written notice before any alterations are made to the exterior of the structure. RTHL status is a permanent designation and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. Only the THC can remove the designation or recall the marker. The marker must remain with the structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere until or unless the THC gives express approval in writing for such action. Once designated as RTHL, properties are subject to provisions of Texas Government Code, Section 442.006(f).

## Criteria:

1. Age: Structures eligible for the RTHL designation and marker must be at least 50 years old.

- 2. **Historical significance:** Architectural significance alone is not enough to qualify a structure for the RTHL designation. It must have an equally significant historical association, and that association can come from an event that occurred at the site; through individuals who owned or lived on the property; or, in the case of bridges, industrial plants, schoolhouses and other non-residential properties, through documented significance to the larger community.
- 3. Architectural significance: Structures deemed architecturally significant are outstanding examples of architectural history through design, materials, structural type or construction methods. In all cases, eligible architectural properties must display integrity; that is, the structure should be in a good state of repair, maintain its appearance from its period of significance and be considered an exemplary model of preservation. Architectural significance is often best determined by the relevance of the property to broader contexts, including geography. Any changes over the years should be compatible with original design and reflect compliance with accepted preservation practices, e.g., the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.
- 4. **Good state of repair:** Structures not considered by the THC to be in a good state of repair are ineligible for RTHL designation. The THC reserves the sole right to make that determination relative to eligibility for RTHL markers.

**Special National Register considerations for RTHL marker applications:** If a structure has been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under either Criterion A or B **and** Criterion C (Architecture), the historical text compiled as part of the National Register nomination process may be submitted as part of the marker process, provided it includes the required reference notes and other documentation. Acceptance of the National Register information for the purposes of the marker process will be up to the sole determination of the THC. Listing in the NRHP does not guarantee approval for an RTHL marker. See the THC web site at <a href="http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madnrcrit.html">http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madnrcrit.html</a> for National Register criteria.

Check this box if the property is individually listed in the NRHP.

# **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements and are submitted online as required can be accepted or processed by the THC (ror RTHL markers, the required elements are: sponsorship application form; narrative history; documentation; legal description of the property; site plan; floorplan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure).

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the county historical commission (CHC) in the county in which the marker will be placed.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and sent via email attachments to the THC by no later than January 15, 2008.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview, significance and documentation.
- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of all available resources, both primary and secondary.
- Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a nonrefundable application fee of \$100 is required. The fee shall be submitted to the THC within ten working days of application receipt notification.

# APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact with the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy, consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application—and throughout the review and production processes—will be via direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC, the CHC representative is providing the THC with notice that the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

## As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:

X Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

## CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any:

Name of CHC contact (chair or marker chair): Marty Moulthrop

Mailing address: 7400 Anaqua Drive City, Zip: Austin, TX 78750

Daytime phone (with area code): 512-343-0814 Email address (required): jmoulthrop@austin.rr.com

# PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

**Property owner:** Jane D. Sibley

Address: 2210 Windsor Road City, state, zip: Austin, TX 78703

Phone: 512-413-2526 Email address: <a href="mailto:phoebezink@aol.com">phoebezink@aol.com</a> (Ms. Sibley does not have email)

# **Legal Description of the property** (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.): LOT 8 & N 20 FT OF LOT 7 ENFIELD D

Upon receipt of the application, the THC will provide the owner with a letter that outlines the legal responsibility of ownership under the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark statute. The letter must be signed by the owner and returned to the THC before the evaluation can be completed.

**NOTE:** The property owner will not receive any additional copies of correspondence from the THC. All other correspondence—notice of receipt, request for additional information, payment notice, inscription, shipping notice, etc.—will be sent via email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary. Given the large volume of applications processed annually and the need for centralized communication, all inquiries about applications in process will be referred to the CHC for response. The CHC is the sole liaison to the THC on all marker application matters.

# SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION

Prospective sponsors please note the following:

• Payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and must be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to

delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.

- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and other Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.
- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors or property owners through marker text, incising or supplemental plaques.

Marker sponsor (may be individual or organization): Phoebe Allen

Contact person (if applicable): Phoebe Allen

Mailing address: 2510 Cedarview Drive City, zip: Austin, TX 78704

Email address (required): phoebezink@aol.com Phone: 512-444-1326; mobile: 627-8170

## SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Name: Jane Dunn Sibley

Street address: 2210 Windsor Road City, zip: Austin, TX 78703

**Daytime phone** (required): 512-413-2526 **Email** (required): phoebezink@aol.com

## TYPE AND SIZE OF RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:

27" x 42" RTHL marker with post (\$1500)

27" X 42" RTHL marker without post\* (\$1500)

- 18" x 28" RTHL marker with post (\$1000)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker without post\* (\$1000)

RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post (\$750)

 $\boxtimes$  RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post\* (\$750)

\*For an RTHL marker without post, indicate to what surface material it will be mounted:

- wood
- 🔀 masonry
- \_\_\_\_ metal
- \_\_\_\_\_ other (specify)

# SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC via email at the following address: <u>markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us</u>.

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):
  - This application form
  - The narrative history (including documentation)
  - Legal description of the property
  - Detailed floor plan for each floor of the structure
  - Detailed site plan of the property
  - At least one historic photograph
  - Current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure

**RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC:** The CHC must retain hard copies of the application as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, for incomplete applications or for applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, see the Markers page on the THC web site

(http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madmark.html).

# DAVIS-SIBLEY HOUSE 2210 Windsor Road Lot 8 & N 20 feet of Lot 7 Enfield D

### **SUMMARY**

The Davis-Sibley House is an excellent example of the extraordinary architectural skill of an Austin native, embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Spanish Revival style. Arguably the prime example of this style within the city of Austin, the house is a contributing property of the National Register's Old West Austin Historic District (OWAHD). The Davis-Sibley House received Historic Landmark status by the City of Austin in July of 2008.

Designed by well-known architect Hal Thomson, the house is also identified with individuals in both the Davis and Sibley families who have made significant contributions to the economic and social development of the Austin community. Its builder, Emma Davis, was the widow of Nelson Davis and a founding member of the Settlement Club. Her son Theo of the Nelson Davis Company, owned the home after his mother's death. He was a director of the Chamber of Commerce and a founder and director of the Capital National Bank. Its owners since 1962, Jane and D.J. Sibley, have both made significant cultural and philanthropic contributions to the heritage of Austin and Texas, notably to the Austin Symphony, the Texas Rock Art Society, Fort Stockton Historical Society, and botanical research at the University of Texas at Austin.

With the exception of the enlarged south wing, which was carefully designed to be in harmony with Thomson's original plans, the home has an unusually high degree of historic integrity in both the interior décor and the exterior architecture. The Sibleys purchased from Theo Davis a number of furnishings originally designed for the house and which remain in use in the home. They have left undisturbed key architectural and decorative elements of the home's interior as well as its exterior façades. According to architectural historian Peter Maxson, "The Davis-Sibley villa is one of the best examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in Austin, if not Central Texas. It is larger than most Austin examples of the style, but it also demonstrates a good understanding of the work of the contemporaneous masters of the style: George Washington Smith in Santa Barbara, California; Addison Mizner of Palm Beach, Florida; and the better work of Attlee Ayres of San Antonio. With its irregular and picturesque massing, and its excellent detailing, the site and landscaping, the Davis House has arguably been an Austin landmark since its completion."

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In 1931 architect **Hal Thomson**, a native of Austin, designed the Spanish Revival home at 2210 Windsor Road for **Emma Davis**. A founding member of Austin's Settlement Club, **Emma Levison Davis** (1871-1954) was the widow of **Nelson Davis** (1858-1923), a pioneer Austin grocer, born in New York, who established the Nelson Davis Company in Austin in 1884. **Theo Davis** (1892-1974), their only son, continued his father's business as Nelson Davis & Son and was a founding director of Capital National Bank. Theo inherited the house from his mother in 1954 and lived there with his wife Nita until 1962, when **Jane and D. J. Sibley** purchased the house.

Built with textured, stucco-finished exterior walls and a Spanish clay tile roof, the home portrays many of the architectural elements and overall design that characterize the Spanish Revival style.

The main entrance of the Davis-Sibley House faces Windsor Road; the front retaining wall is original, made of hollow tile and plaster. A rear drive is located on Pease Road; two wroughtiron Weigl arches define this semi-circular driveway's entry and exit. The property originally had a steep incline, between Pease Road and Windsor Road, being part of the embankment of Shoal Creek below. Seeps flow following rains; area homes with basements have drains and sump pumps as a result.

# History of the Land<sup>1</sup>

The Old West Austin Historic District is comprised of three major suburbs, Enfield, Pemberton Heights, and Bryker Woods – all originally part of the George W. Spear League that surrounded the Pease family's home, a National Register property located on the north side of Pease Road, catty-corner from the Davis-Sibley home's rear entry. The area developed as Enfield was the east pasture of the Pease estate and enveloped Woodlawn.

In early 1838, the Fayette County Board of Land Commissioners issued a head right certificate for one league of land to **George W. Spear**, who had emigrated to Texas with his family in 1835; Spear died in 1839. The Spear Survey, 25 labors west and north of the city's central business district, was sold to C.S. Parish in 1841. Parish sold the land to George M. Martin for \$100 cash in 1846, and it was resold seven months later for \$150 to **James B. Shaw**, State Comptroller under Governor Pease.

In 1853 Shaw hired master builder Abner Cook to build the Greek Revival style home known as **Woodlawn**, which he sold to **Governor Elisha Marshall Pease** (1812-1883) and his wife **Lucadia Niles Pease** (1813-1905) for \$15,000 in 1859.

Governor Pease was instrumental in establishing public education and persuaded the legislature to appropriate land for the Austin State Hospital, the Texas School for the Deaf, and the Texas School for the Blind. He also supervised the completion of the Governor's Mansion; the Pease family was the first to live there.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Graham and Pease family files, and Enfiled Realty Company file, Austin History Center. Davis-Sibley House, Compiled by Phoebe Allen 11/25/13 3 of 26

# **History of the Pease Estate**

After their move to Woodlawn, the Pease home became a social and cultural center. Their eldest daughter **Carrie Augusta Pease** married **George Graham** (1847-1897) there in 1875; the young couple lived with the Peases for a few years and introduced grandchildren to the gardens. When Carrie died in childbirth in 1882 (their youngest daughter Anne had died in 1862), Lucadia, together with her daughter **Julia Pease** (1853-1918), raised Carrie's three children, including the newborn, at Woodlawn. Julia, a Vassar-educated woman interested in the arts and philanthropy, took over the family estate after her father died in 1883.

The three children – **Marshall** Pease Graham (1875-1910), Richard **Niles** Graham (1881-1959) and Carrie **Margaret** Graham (1882-1961) – had two grandfathers who were prominent in early Texas history. Their paternal grandfather, physician **Beriah Graham** (1804-1879), moved from North Carolina to Texas in 1846. Governor Sam Houston appointed Beriah as superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum (later Austin State Hospital) in 1859, and Governor Edmund Davis appointed him as State Treasurer in 1872.<sup>2</sup>

The Pease estate, which extended from 12<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Streets and from Shoal Creek on the east to the Colorado River on the west, remained in the family until 1916 when the heirs of the estate—including Julia Pease, her sister's two remaining children (Niles and Margaret Graham) together with Margaret's husband **Paul Crusemann**—subdivided the property and formally announced the formation of **Enfield Realty and Home Building Company** with their first cousin, Walter **Murray Graham** (1879-1957), serving as president of the company. After Julia Pease's death in 1918, the estate passed to Niles Graham and the Crusemanns. **Woodlawn**, the four-acre antebellum home, remains at the heart of the neighborhood at the intersection of Niles and Pease Roads.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Greek Revival Beriah Graham House survives on 26<sup>th</sup> and Salado Streets in Austin.

Niles was active in business, civic and social life in Austin. He was the secretary of the Infield Petroleum Company, which had offices in Austin and Brownwood. Niles and his cousin Murray were partners in several businesses. **Murray** was the son of James Walter Graham (1854-1931), who was a brother to Niles' and Margaret's father. Murray married **Helen Gault Hood** in 1910. Niles married **Anita Laura Goeth** (1889-1953) in 1910; they lived at Woodlawn from 1911-1913 and from 1928-1938 with their three children. Anita Laura's father, Adolph C. Goeth, and her grandfather, Walter Tips, both headed prominent early Austin families.

## History of the Enfield Neighborhood

On a bluff overlooking Shoal Creek, Pease Park and the downtown district, the Enfield neighborhood was designed to accommodate large, beautifully appointed homes in a rural setting. Many of the homes were built by Enfield Home Building and Realty.

Austin native **Hugo Kuehne**, founder of the University of Texas School of Architecture and its architectural library in 1910, was called upon to design a plan for Enfield that would preserve the unique country-like charm, topography, and natural beauty of the wooded area while incorporating modern conveniences such as paved streets, concrete sidewalks, gas, electricity and water.

One hundred fourteen homes were built in the first eight years. Between 1924 and 1940, Westfield (1925), Tarry-Town (1934), and Westenfield (1932) opened additional tracts of the estate for development. Thanks to the Enfield Home Building and Realty Company, the neighborhoods had a swimming pool, a riding club, landscaped parks, a paper called "Westenfield Screech," and in 1940 a shopping center. Enfield was one of the first suburbs to depend on the automobile for transportation, but Niles Graham was convinced the addition would not prosper without public transportation and agreed in 1926 to subsidize a bus line to serve Enfield if the line failed to make a profit.

The Pease-Graham family's contribution to the development of Austin was a very important one, as the city had been lagging in economic development and population growth since the dream of turning the city into a manufacturing center had collapsed with the Colorado River dam in 1900. Austin continued to serve as the government and educational center, but it was not until 1928 that the city began to provide such infrastructure as paved streets, sewers, sidewalks, and parks with playgrounds and swimming pools.

Thus the Enfield development furthered the idea of Austin as a beautiful place to live, touting restrictive covenants that prevented the sale of alcohol, construction of apartments, or occupancy by those of African descent. Dwellings were required to have a 30-foot setback from the street. A minimum of \$3,500 for a one-story or \$7,500 for a two-story home was required. Expert craftsmanship was characteristic of the development.

Clearing and design layout for Enfield A was begun in 1915, with Kuehne<sup>3</sup> serving as the landscape architect. Enfield Road bisected the addition, which began just west of Shoal Creek and ended just west of Lorrain Street, with Windsor Road and Parkway at the north edge, and 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets as the south boundary.

Enfield took its name from Enfield, Connecticut, the birthplace and home of Governor Pease<sup>4</sup> before his move to Texas, and its streets were named for Connecticut towns: Windsor, where his wife was born; Hartford, the state's capital; Poquonock, where Lucadia's family lived,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Kuehne left the University and established his private practice the same year he began work on Enfield.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Enfield, Connecticut, was first settled by Pease's direct ancestors on the banks of the Connecticut River. Windsor Road was given its name by Governor Pease when he made his home at Woodlawn.

and others. Niles Road was named in honor of Lucadia Niles Pease; Lorrain Street took its name from Governor Pease's father, Lorrain Thompson Pease. Other streets named for family members include Marshall, Murray and Pease.

## Land Owners

In 1928 the Westenfield Development Company sold the land at 2210 Windsor for \$20,000 to Melita Faust & **Ralph C. Goeth**. Ralph Goeth (1891-1967) held a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and became president and general manager of Tips Engine Works in 1928. Ralph and Anita Laura (Mrs. Niles) Graham were children of **Adolph Goeth**—president of Walter Tips Hardware and Tips Engine Works from 1911 until his death in 1927; he had been an associate with the company since 1884. Ralph and Anita Laura's mother, **Julia Tips Goeth**, was the daughter of **Walter Tips** and a close friend of sculptress Elizabet Ney. Mrs. Goeth was also a founder of the Texas Fine Arts Association (1929), and very active in promoting a clean water supply, garbage collection and disposal, and cleanliness in local dairies.

The Goeths sold their property to Emma Davis for \$10,200 in July of 1930 – a huge loss due to the Crash of 1929. Emma's son and his wife sold the house and property to the Sibleys in February of 1962. Thus, only two families have owned the house.

# The Davis Family Home (1930-1962)

In 1930, seven years after the death of her husband, Emma engaged Hal Thomson of Dallas to build "an important home" in the new Enfield D Development. When the downstairs bedroom was enlarged, original plans drawn for Mrs. Davis were found in the south wall of the library and are in the possession of the present owner. Thomson designed the home in the Spanish Revival style, and worked with **Pierre Dutell**, a New York decorator, to continue the theme in the interior, closely harmonizing the interior décor with the exterior architectural style.

Dutell traveled to Spain to collect furnishings for the home, and in Majorca had rugs custom woven to size and his design for the dining room and living room. The original dining room furniture, still in use, was designed in the Spanish Baroque manner and distressed to appear antique. Dutell designed the extant living room valences that were carved in Spain. He personally painted the ceiling and heavy vigas of the living room, and hand rubbed the paint for an aged look.

One of master craftsman **Fortunat Weigl's** significant commissions during the 1930s was that for the Davis home: lanterns, gates, grills, balconies, stair rails, twin standing candelabras, decorative trees, and fireplace sets, all still in place.

## **Architectural Description**

Architect **Hal Thomson**, who designed this home for Emma Davis in the **Spanish Revival** style, envisioned this location "in the round" in the sense that the back was designed as carefully as the front. First manifested in the 1930s, Spanish Revival was initially promoted by Arthur Byne, architect and architectural historian specializing in Spanish art and architecture.<sup>5</sup>

The Davis-Sibley House features numerous Weigl ironworks, including the wrought iron sign indicating the home's address. Jane Sibley designed the ironwork of the front gate, which was forged by **Perry Cann**, who acquired many of Weigl's original tools. The railings along the steps to Windsor Road were also designed by Sibley, based on Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Byne is credited with the style's widespread distribution in the U.S., principally in the states of Florida, Texas and California. Byne, along with his wife, Mildred Stapley, authored many books relating to Spanish architecture, Spanish Moorish ceilings, Spanish gardens and Spanish furniture. The current U.S. Embassy cultural annex in Madrid, Spain, is based at the former Arthur Byne residence in Spain.

forged by Pohowsky of Salado, Texas. Two wrought iron lamps on either side of the gate were added by the Sibleys.

Surrounded by a low wall, the residence displays a handsome forecourt garden and fountain, designed in 1963 by **C. Coatsworth Pinkney<sup>6</sup>** for the Sibleys. A four-arch loggia terrace on the ground floor of the home frames the garden. Corinthian capitals sit atop the masonry columns that support the four "basket handle" elliptical arches. The loggia offers a lovely setting for family breakfasts and for dinner parties. The wood ceiling of the loggia retains its original blue paint.

The tile roof has been redone twice, with careful removal of the tiles, repair to the roof underneath, and a return of the original tiles; broken tiles were replaced by tile from the second level so that visible repairs remain unnoticed.

The main door is built of hand-pegged and hand-carved solid oak wood with a forged iron grill protecting a small "peep hole" window. It features a conch motif sculptured in plaster above the doorway, which is framed by a rope design, all in plaster. Both the front and rear wooden doors are hand pegged, as are all the doors in the house with the exception of the kitchen door.

The Sibleys brought the home up to date with central heating and air conditioning, a sprinkler system and French drain, widened the rear driveway and leveled the front slope for a swimming pool. The loggia terrace overlooks the garden and pool. The pool's edge is trimmed in Mexican Talavera tile, and the steps inside the pool were inspired by a stone water tank in Majorca. The pool design received a special award and appeared in an *Austin Homes* magazine. The Sibleys added the Mexican fountain in a location that appeared to have been considered in the original

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Pinkney's plans are on file at the Austin History Center.

plan for the front garden, with water flowing from a recycling pump. Plantings typical of the Spanish Revival style, such as hibiscus, bougainvillea and roses, are evident today.

In 1962, the Sibleys enlarged the south wing with a master bedroom, in order to accommodate their family of five, in keeping with the original style. Perry Cann forged this balcony's ironwork, a close copy of Weigl. The far left front niche on the addition holds a San Miguel sculpture.

There is a two-car garage and a guesthouse used for visiting family and musicians. The home was featured on an art tour for Laguna Gloria Art Museum in 1964. In 1997, the home was featured in a national "Home Garden" TV show.

#### **Interior Features**

The high ceiling of the living room is supported by hand-hewn heavy timber trusses characteristic of a simplified Moorish "Mudejar" structural roofing system. It leads into a vestibule which functions as a hub, connecting the dining room, living room, back entry, and the grand stairway leading to upper level bedrooms. One wall of the vestibule includes a niche for the display of religious statues or artwork; currently it features an Umlauf madonna. The floor of this entry hall is of tile made in Fort Worth. The light fixture in the entry was added by the Sibleys. No two rooms in the house have the same ceiling height.

The 'sala' or living room, generous but cozy and well proportioned, includes a carved Texas shellstone fireplace surround; there is no mantel. The andirons, screen and tools are by Weigl. Opposite are slender vertical windows with wood doors that open to the loggia terrace and overlook the front garden. The painted wooden valances over all windows in the sala are original and untouched. New York decorator Pierre Dutell is said to have painted the valances and stained the ceiling timbers himself, and they remain in their original condition. The Spanish style sofa is original.

In the library, the Sibleys added ceiling lights, extended the shelving, and closed off a doorway on the east wall, where there existed a small hallway to a guest room. While removing a wall for the extension, the Sibleys found the original plans of the house inside the wall. Perry Cann created the Toledo-style fireplace tongs in the library. The sitting room is part of the mid-70s extension. The Sibley's tried to duplicate the home's original, hand-pegged plank floor in this area. In the extension – which serves as the master bedroom-sitting room, and bath with a large walk-in closet – is a selosia from the Sibleys' Fort Stockton home. A ceramic Chinese water vessel is featured in this area.

The dining room includes a large plate glass window at one end with original, carved wooden interior doors, and windows on two walls. There are no corners, no right angles in the dining room walls; i.e. all joins in the walls and ceiling are curved – perhaps due to an old superstition about ghosts staying in corners. The table and chairs in the dining room are original pieces made in Majorca for this room. The chandelier was added by the Sibleys and is circa 1870s Baccarat Bristol blue glass, with matching candelabra and candy dishes. Originally purchased by the Ambassador from Persia to France for his home in Persia, the Sibleys purchased the set from Betty Ales, who had inherited it from her grandmother.

All windows have wood frames and consist of paired lights. The butler's pantry, or "anticocina" offers storage for china, crystal and silver as well as a sink the Sibleys trimmed in tile. The kitchen consists of a stove with gas burners set into a "Talavera" ceramic tiled masonry base. Cabinets are orignal, but appliances have been changed and their placement altered. Flooring in the kitchen is original pine; the Sibleys removed linoleum from this floor. The original kitchen entry had a tiny room where deliveries were made…milk, groceries, dry cleaning; this space is now incorporated into a bar area. A door on the west side of the room enters a bath and maid's room, which has its own outside door.

Flooring throughout the house is original and of either red, fired Saltillo clay tiles or wide, hand pegged oak planks.

The open stairway leading to the second floor is built of solid oak risers and treads, with a Weigl-forged iron stair rail. An interior balcony at the top of the stairs views the vestibule below and leads to the bedrooms. Along with the balcony railings and grills on the dining room windows, all of the hardware for the doors and windows was hand forged by Weigl Ironworks. A stairwell also leads upstairs from the rear drive. There are bedrooms and an office upstairs. One upstairs bedroom has a coffered ceiling, which is unusual in a second story bedroom. There were originally six arched windows, with leaded glass – which had been removed by a previous owner. The Sibleys replaced these windows using the original plans.

Near the rear entry is a powder room with Weigl ironwork, coffered ceiling, and original French Toile D'Joie fabric wall covering. The rear entry door on the ground level matches the front door and opens onto a cloistered hall with two arches and one stone Doric pillar. The rear garden has a wishing well that reflects the Moorish influence. The shutters are all original.

The home was originally heated via a boiler system in the basement. Windows were placed with cross ventilation and breezes in mind. The basement is not the full size of the house, but under the kitchen and dining areas only. A small basement was added in the Sixties under the addition for its heating unit and water heaters.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Architectural comments are based on descriptions by architect Logan Wagner and owner Jane Sibley, 2007-08; "Interview with Mrs. Jane Sibley," April 10, 1990, by Jennifer Froman, provided by Sibley. "Sibley Home on Laguna Art Tour," American Sttesman, March 19, 1964 with photo of Davis home.

# Architect Henry Bowers (Hal) Thomson (1882-1974)

Austin native Hal Thomson designed the Davis-Sibley House. His pioneer grandfather, Alexander Thomson, came to Texas with Stephen F. Austin. Son of Rector Thomson, Hal was born in 1882 to a prominent Hill Country ranching family and received an elite early education at private and preparatory schools. After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas, he received a master's degree in architecture from Boston's Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1906. His extensive travels after graduation, studying Europe's classical and historic architecture, developed his strong historical style.

Thomson established his architectural practice in Dallas under his own name in 1908, and later as Thomson and Swaine. His social connections were enhanced in 1914 when he married Geils Adoue, daughter of prominent Dallas banker J. B. Adoue. They had two daughters. Thomson was a founding member of Brook Hollow Golf Club and a past president of the Idlewild Club.

Thomson was one of the great mansion-builders in Texas in the period between the two

world wars, and designed many in Dallas and elsewhere in the State. The AIA guide Austin and

its Architecture notes:

"Woodlawn set the tone for the area's (Pemberton Heights) architecture. Greek Revival was very acceptable, as was Georgian Revival with its red brick and white columns. Dallas architect Henry Bowers Thomson provided very subtle residential versions of Beaux-Arts classicism such as the Drake-Butler House<sup>8</sup> (1930) and the Reed-Cocke House (1929), though Thomson could also work in the less formal Mediterranean villa style, as on the Davis-Sibley House (1932)."<sup>9</sup>

Davis-Sibley House, Compiled by Phoebe Allen

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> According to architectural historian Peter Maxson, the AIA Guide is incorrect: "Hal Thomson did not design the Drake-Butler House. Wm. Drake was president of Calcasieu Lumber Co., which had its own stable of building designers. His house was to be a showcase of their talents, albeit in a Thomsonian vocabulary."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Austin: Its Architects and Architecture (1836-1986) Austin Chapter AIA, 1986.

Hal was an eclectic master of many styles, including Tudor, Georgian, Neoclassical, Italianate, French and Spanish. His best works, primarily house mansions, date from the Teens and Twenties.

In Dallas Thomson designed the Southwestern Life Building, his own home at 3925 Potomac, and far more elaborate and grander homes on Swiss Avenue and in Highland Park. Many consider the George Aldredge House, a French Eclectic style home with Renaissance detailing, the high mark of his eclectic architecture. Thomson and Swain designed institutional and commercial buildings in Dallas, including the Dallas Aquarium (a collaboration with Fooshee & Cheek and Flint & Broad), the Cotton Exchange Building, a 22-story addition to the Adolphus Hotel, and the Maple Terrace Apartment House, as well as numerous homes throughout Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Corsicana, and Terrell, Texas.

Thomson was the president of the Dallas Society of Architects for a time and mentored many of the leading architects in Dallas, such as Mark Lemmon, Wilson McClure, and both Fooshee & Cheek.<sup>10</sup> Though Thomson is most well known for his work in Dallas, the Davis-Sibley House and two "sister-ship" mansions he designed in Austin for Malcolm Reed and Edgar Perry are significant for their style and design. Both the Reed and Perry Estates are historic landmarks. Thomson retired from architecture in 1944.

## Fortunat Weigl (1884-1973) & Weigl Iron Works

Fortunat Weigl, an early apprentice of **Peter Mansbendel**, completed much of the finish work in the Enfield Addition. According to Fortunat's grandson Fritz Weigl, "My father, Herbert Weigl, considered the Davis home some of the Weigls' more memorable work." Furthermore,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Perry Estate/St. Mary's Academy Historic District, 701 East 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Austin. National Register Property, 2001, prepared by Laura Knott. Texas Historical Commission.

"Significant commissions during the 1930s included work for...the Davis home at 2210 Windsor (lanterns, gates, grills, balconies, stair rails, candelabra, decorative trees, and fireplace sets)."

John Fox, in a 1978 student paper, "The Weigls: Art Craftsmen in Iron," writes: "Another H.B. Thompson-designed home featuring iron ornamentation by the Weigls is the Theo Davis home, at 2210 Windsor, built 1932. The ironwork includes a pair of bold portal arches with lanterns, a pair of pedestrian gates, structural tie bars with scrolls in the front entry porch, two inset door grills, balconies, a stair rail, window grills, the address logo, twin freestanding candelabras, two very organic giant grape leaf motif flowerpot trees, andirons, fireplace screen and fireplace tools."<sup>11</sup>

Born March 21, 1884, in Bavaria, Fortunat Weigl worked for a master ironmonger there in his youth. He immigrated to Texas with his wife and sons, Lee and Herbert, in 1913. Fortunat spent his first years working at odd jobs for German-speaking tradesmen before turning to iron crafting. Among other jobs, he worked for more than a year as a woodcarver for Peter Mansbendel, who gave him his first local job as an iron craftsman. In 1917, when Weigl had been in Austin about four years, the woodcarver hired him to make four wrought-iron light fixtures that Mansbendel had designed. Mansbendel equipped Weigl with a forge, an anvil, a hammer, a vise, some raw iron, and a sack of coal, for which he received the four light fixtures and \$3 a week in cash until the debt was settled.

Weigl's work can be seen in many Austin buildings, including the Austin Public Library, the French Legation, the Elisabet Ney Museum, Mayor Roy Butler's home, the Capitol, the Dobie Room in the University of Texas Academic Center, Woodlawn, the Gary Morrison home, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Fox notes, "Regarding this job, Herb Weigl says they only did about half the ironwork and that he would have to look at it to determine what portion, but they definitely did the fireplace screen, tools and andirons as well as at least one of the portal archways."

Bremond Block, the cemetery at the LBJ Ranch, and most of the important historic buildings in Austin. After Fortunat's death in 1973, Lee and Herbert continued to run the family iron business until their retirement in 1977. During their years they fashioned pieces for the celebrities of their era—icons such as Jack Benny, Lucille Ball and Bob Hope.

# **Identifying Weigl Ironworks**

According to Fritz Weigl, grandson of Fortunat, techniques requiring added work and skill are characteristic of the southern German iron-working tradition passed down through the Weigl family. A rose, for example, would be hammered and chiseled from a single piece of iron. The petals were not cut and hammered separately and then welded to the stem as might normally be done, thus each petal bears an imprint of the one beneath it on its underside. The Weigls considered making a one-piece rose the epitome of forging skill, requiring about 10 hours of work per rose. One of the hallmarks of Weigl iron work can be seen at the end of the cut stem of a rose; the Weigls forged a small curl of bark at the end of the stem as if the stem had been torn off and often chiseled a small circle or loop to replicate the boundary between the bark layer and the core wood of the stem.

On their better work the Weigls often used features characteristic of South German iron working technique such as banding of scrolls to each other or the frame where they touch, and even threading of one part of a scroll through another part rather than welding them together. Scrolls are finished with tight ends or balls on their tips; the balls must be added when the scroll tip is heated at the forge, an extra, time-consuming step not followed by many suppliers. Nearly every scroll tip had some kind of hand-forged end, which usually appears as a ball, but sometimes as a flattened and curved blade, a fiddle head, or even a dragon or animal head. This is the easiest identifier for Weigl ironwork. In his early work, Fortunat sometimes chiseled tiny faces in the rivet heads as a humorous touch. (The Davis firescreen has faces in its rivet heads.) Having forge work done on the scroll tips does not ensure that it is Weigl work, but absence of such forge work is a very strong indication that it is not.<sup>12</sup>

# **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA for Owners & Related Individuals**

## THE DAVIS FAMILY

**Emma Levison Davis** (1871-1954) was a founding member of the Settlement Club and entertained the volunteers and children from the home on many occasions. Her husband had given generous gifts to the Club. Emma and Nelson had one adopted son, **Theo Davis**. Emma entertained often in her new home. According to Jane Sibley, Marie Hirshfield Hannah (now deceased) remarked that "Aunt Emma" played bridge and drank martinis in the afternoon, and may have smoked cigarettes.

Emma Davis died at her home in 1954 and was buried in the Davis Mausoleum in Eastwood cemetery in Austin. The Davis home passed to Theo and his second wife, Nita. One of the upstairs bedrooms was modernized according to the design of the dean of architecture at U.T.

Theodore Phillipson Davis (1892- 1974) was an adopted son. He was born in Austin, attended the Whitis School, and graduated from Yale after three years in 1913, when he returned to join his father's business, Nelson Davis & Son. Considered an intellectual, but with a great humor and intense interest in all sports, his family indulged him and even gave him two automobiles at one time. After Yale, he tried to join the army but was underweight; he enlisted as a private in the aviation section of the signal corps and entered officers' training school at Kelly Field, San Antonio. There he advanced to first lieutenant and was sent overseas to fly in France

Davis-Sibley House, Compiled by Phoebe Allen

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Fritz Weigl of Dallas, son of Herbert Weigl and grandson of Fortunat Weigl, via email: "This information is a compilation of information from various sources including magazine articles written about the iron works when my father and uncle were still living (with input from them), tapes my father recorded, etc."

and England during WWI. He retired as a Captain in the air service and rejoined his father in the wholesale grocery business in 1923.

Theo revitalized the Austin Country Club as its president following the Depression years, served as a director of the Chamber of Commerce, and was a founder and director of the Capital National Bank. Theo's first wife was the "girl-next'door" **Margaret Batts** (1899-), daughter of Judge Robert Batts. She was a president of the Settlement Club. After divorcing Theo she married **Edgar Tobin** of San Antonio and became one of the leaders in that community, founding the Tobin Foundation. (Okewell, her family home at 1505 Windsor, has city, state and national landmark designations. As Mrs. Tobin, Mag lived in San Antonio but retained ownership of the Windsor Road estate as a place to stay when she came up for football games.)

Theo married his second wife, Doris **Anita Ebeling** in New Orleans. The daughter of Otto Ebeling, a banker who hailed from a prominent Marble Falls family, attended Martha Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and majored in English and psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. Otto owned for a time the Curl-Crockett House in Hyde Park. Nita served as president of the Settlement Club in the 1920s, was the social director at the Austin Country Club for four years before the war, worked for the City Recreation Department in Austin during WWII, and was in charge of USO enlisted men's dances at Camp Swift and at the San Marcos Navigation School.<sup>13</sup>

Nita Davis replaced some of the leaded glass windows with a picture window in her bedroom (the Sibleys restored the leaded glass windows).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> "New Hostess." Randolph Air Force *Wingspread*, April 30, 1948.

The couple moved to Cambridge Towers after they sold their home to the Sibleys in 1962. Theo died in June of 1974 and is buried in the Davis Mausoleum.<sup>14</sup>

Relatives of Emma's husband were frequent guests at the Windsor Road home and played an important role in the lives of the Davis family. Some are linked to public figures that had a lasting mark on Austin.

One of eight children, **Nelson Davis** (1858-1923), was born in Albany, New York, and moved to Galveston as a boy. He was first associated with Heidenheimer Brothers in Galveston, and moved to Austin in 1884 to establish his own grocery business, Nelson Davis & Company. Nelson's his oldest sister Nettie married wealthy Galveston banker **Morris Lasker** (1840-1916). Both the Davis and Lasker families are of Jewish heritage and had been prominent pioneers in Galveston. Their son Ed Lasker was associated with the Texas Flour Mills. Another Lasker son, Albert, is considered the founder of modern advertising and became a well-known Chicago philanthropist.

Albert Davis Laskar (1880-1952) was the third of eight children. He started out as a newspaper reporter with the Galveston News while a teenager, but his father secured for him a position with Lord & Thomas, a top advertising agency in Chicago. He became a partner of the firm in 1904, bought out his partners in 1912, and served as chief executive for 44 years. Hired by the Republican Party as a publicity agent, Lasker later supervised publicity and speechwriting for Warren G. Harding's presidential campaign; he was the first advertising man to be used by a president. In 1921 President Harding appointed Lasker as chairman of the U.S.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Austin History Center: Theodore Davis, Nelson Davis. Albert Davis Lasker; including "Theo Davis President of the Austin Country Club," undated clipping; "Local Bank Founder Theodore Davis Dies," Austin American Statesman, June 9, 1974; "Theodore Davis," Travis County Scrapbook, XI; and several obituary notices of Nelson Davis.

Shipping Board, where he served for two years (an impressive connection for his wholesalegrocer uncle back in Austin).

In 1916, Lasker purchased a block of stock in the Chicago Cubs baseball organization and soon became the controlling stockholder. His good friend **William K. Wrigley**, a Chicago chewing gum manufacturer, also became a stockholder, and in 1925, Lasker sold his interest in the Cubs to Wrigley. Lasker is largely responsible for the decision to change the name of the playing field from Cubs Park to Wrigley Field.

In 1898, Nelson Davis and his four-year old son Theo had joined Wrigley, a young man who thought he could make a living selling chewing gum for a nickel, on a merchandising expedition in the Hill Country. During President Harding's administration, Theo visited his Lasker cousins in Washington, D.C., where Wrigley was also a guest. Wrigley renewed their acquaintance with an invitation to a Cubs game in Wrigley Field the following day.<sup>15</sup>

Lasker married **Mary Woodard Lasker** (1900-1994) of New York City in 1940. The couple established the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation in 1942 to support medical research.<sup>16</sup> Lady Bird Johnson was a personal friend of Mary Lasker, with whom she shared an interest in flowers, gardening, and urban beautification. Their friendship gave Lasker access to President Lyndon Johnson, who credited medical science with saving his life after his heart attack in 1958.

Mary provided seasonal plantings on New York's Park Avenue in perpetuity and, together with her close friend Lady Bird Johnson (who was a frequent guest in the Sibley home), planted the banks of the Potomac in Washington, D.C. with spring bulbs. Lasker brought in 10,000 azaleas for Pennsylvania Avenue, 1,500 cherry trees for Hains Point and a million daffodil bulbs

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> "W.K. Wrigley Chewing Gum King Travels in Llano." Llano News, December 11, 1959, as told by Carlos Ashley, clipping in Austin History Center: Nelson Davis biographical file. <sup>16</sup> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert Lasker and www.laskerfoundation.org

for what is now the national park named for her on Columbia Island. Thanks to Lasker, three hundred donated cherry trees blossom every spring at the United Nations. In 1964 Mrs. Johnson formed the Committee for a More Beautiful Capital, responding to Mary Lasker's suggestion that she make Washington, D.C., a "garden city" and a model for the rest of the nation. Soon afterward Mrs. Lasker and Mrs. Johnson founded the Society for a More Beautiful National Capital, which received private donations for the project. The first planting took place on the mall where Mrs. Johnson planted pansies. She then planted azaleas and dogwood in the Triangle at Third and Independence Avenue and ended her first planting effort at a public housing project.<sup>17</sup>

# **THE SIBLEYS**

**D. J. Sibley Jr.** (1913-2005), the only child of dentist D. Jacobi Sibley Sr. and Effie Potts Sibley, was a physician and West Texas rancher. Born prematurely in Bertram, 20 miles outside Austin, his incubator was a shoebox filled with lambs' wool and placed in the warm oven of the kitchen's wood stove. Sibley's father developed tuberculosis and took his family to live at a sanatorium in El Paso. They settled in Fort Stockton, developing ranching and business interests in Pecos and Brewster counties.

D.J. received his first commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant from New Mexico Military Institute in 1931 and transferred to the army medical corps after his medical residency in Baltimore. He received a BA from UT Austin and an MD from UT Medical School in Galveston in 1937.

D.J. served in the U.S. Medical Corps from 1940 to 1948 in campaigns from Papua, New Guinea to Luzon and the Bataan in the Phillipines, and was in command of the medical operation at Corregidor. Following 39 months in the South Pacific, he was awarded the bronze star and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> www.ladybirdjohnsontribute.org/biography.htm

rotated home to treat his tuberculosis, hepatitis and amoebiasis. He retired from the service as a Colonel after three years of hospitalization.

He married Jane Dunn in Fort Stockton in 1950, where they ranched in the Glass Mountains and he practiced medicine until 1961. The couple founded the Fort Stockton Historical Society, leaving the city a permanent gift of the Old Fort Parade Ground and their adjacent home. With this bequest, the city began rebuilding the pre-Civil War fort and restored the existing officers' quarters.

Dr. and Mrs. Sibley and their three young children – Jake, Mahala and Hiram – moved to Austin from West Texas in 1962 and bought the Davis home. Dr. Sibley nourished his interests in ecology, range management, plant biology and genetic programming while engaging in scientific research at the UT Clayton Foundation Biochemical Institute in Austin. In 1982 he established the D.J. Sibley Centennial Professorship in Plant Molecular Genetics, the first endowed support for plant research at UT Austin. Other interests were music, ballet, art, history, genealogy and philanthropy. He was active in the Austin Symphony, keenly interested in the archaeology of Texas and was a founding member of the Texas Rock Art Society, Bat Conservation International, the Chihuahuan Research Institute, Environic Foundation International, and the Big Bend Studies Program at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. D.J. was proud of his heritage as a member of the Creek Indian Nation.

Sibley was a member of the Texas Historical Foundation and a president of the English Speaking Union, which association led to entertaining guests from England such as the Lord Mayor of London, the Earl and Countess of Hardwood, and numerous visitors from foreign countries and the State Department. Foreign students were also welcomed, including a young Peruvian who lived with the Sibleys for almost a year.

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As a member of the young Republican Party in Texas, Sibley introduced candidates such as David Dewhurst, Susan Combs, and John Cornyn. George W. Bush, then governor, was a frequent guest. The Sibleys hosted one of the first integrated black-tie dinner parties in Austin in 1971, in conjunction with the UT Art Department, for Mr. & Mrs. Paul Tishman of New York City, one of the largest property owners in the U.S., who were showing their collection of African art in select museums in the Middle East and the U.S. in an effort to improve race relationships. The Sibleys have also entertained such luminaries as Aldous Huxley, James Michner, Ted Fehrenbach, Stephen Weinberg, Lady Bird Johnson, and the sisters of Lopez Portillo, president of Mexico, who reciprocated by inviting the Austin Symphony to perform in Mexico as their guests.

Dr. Sibley's ashes were interred at his Glass Mountain ranch alongside his son Jake and daughter Mahala.<sup>18</sup>

**Jane Dunn Sibley** (1924-) lives in the Davis-Sibley Home and is active as philanthropist and arts leader, recently devoting much of her time outside the family to the Long Center for the Performing Arts, which opened this spring.

Jane joined the board of directors of the Austin Symphony Orchestra in 1967 and served a president for 25 years, developing Symphony Square in buildings from the era of the Civil War. Her philosophy for the Symphony was simple: a nonprofit organization should operate in the black, and the ASO does just that. In 1970, as a member of the executive committee, she cast the first dissenting vote against dissolving the financially strapped organization. The remaining board members followed suit. She became president of the Austin Symphony Orchestra Society in 1971, and chairman of the board in 1996.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Obituary, Austin American Statesman, January 14, 2005.

Born in West Texas in the spring of 1924, Jane's early memories are of the Great Depression. Her parents were A. Warren Dunn and Minnie Mahala Walker Dunn of Ft. Stockton. Warren was a banker and later a postmaster. Jane received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Texas and was later awarded an honorary doctorate from St. Edward's University. She and her husband's mutual interests in Texas history and historic preservation continued through the years, culminating in the establishment of the Rock Art Foundation, dedicated to the preservation of the earliest prehistoric paintings in the U.S. at Seminole Canyon State Park and other locations.

The US Geological Survey Map of the Delaware Mountain-Salt Flat area depicts a feature

named for her, called "Jane's Window." Jane was honored by Meals on Wheels in 2003, and was

named Austin's Most Worthy Citizen in 1998.

# MAPS & PLANS

- 1. Site Plan (6,064 square feet, including guest house and garage)
- 2. Original floor plans by Hal B. Thomson
- 3. Floor plan for 1975-76 south wing extension

# PHOTOS

**B&W Photo** by Phoebe Allen, January 2008 (see CD)

1. 10840003 one of two Weigl arches at rear entry

Color Photos by Phoebe Allen, January 2008 (see CD)

- θ IMGP0837.JPG Attached garage and guest house to left of rear entry
- θ IMGP0838.JPG Rear façade moving to the left
- θ IMGP0839-42.JPG Rear façade moving to the right
- θ IMGP0840.JPG Rear, far right w/ addition
- θ IMGP0841.JPG Rear façade
- θ IMGP0843.JPG Detail of rear entry
- θ IMGP0843.JPG Detail of Weigl railing
- θ IMGP0844.JPG Entry Hall w/ Weigl staircase railing
- θ IMGP0846.JPG Mantle and Weigl firescreen
- θ IMGP0847-48.JPG Living Room; note beams and window valence
- IMGP0849.JPG Living Room looking toward front loggia terrace; note window valence and original Spanish couch

- θ IMGP0850.JPG Detail of window valence
- θ IMGP0852.JPG Living Room (sala) looking toward entry hall; note fireplace
- θ IMGP0853.JPG Front door
- θ IMGP0854.JPG Detail of front Sibley gate
- θ IMGP0855-56-57.JPG Front façade
- θ IMGP0858-59-60.JPG Front façade, closer view of arched loggia
- θ IMGP0861-62.JPG View of fountain and pool and low wall at street
- θ IMGP0863.JPG Powder room near rear entry, with original fabric wall covering
- IMGP0864.JPG Dining Room looking toward front of house; note original furniture, wooden shutters on window
- θ IMGP0865.JPG Detail of DR shutter and Weigl candelabra
- θ IMGP0866.JPG Niche at foot of entry hall stairway
- θ IMGP1436.JPG North façade
- θ IMGP1437.JPG North façade, view from neighbor's drive
- θ IMGP1438.JPG North façade of garage and guesthouse
- θ IMGP1439.JPG North façade, from east
- θ IMGP1440.JPG North façade, detail of arches on side porch
- θ IMGP1441.JPG Front porch ceiling beams (blue paint is original)
- θ IMGP1443.JPG Weigl firescreen detail

# **HISTORICAL PHOTO**

1. Photocopy of a newspaper clipping with the <u>Davis</u> home, undated – before 1962. AHC file: 2210 Windsor Road

Deed Research for DAVIS-SIBLEY HOUSE at 2210 Windsor Road, Austin, Texas
Lot 8 & N 20 Ft. of Lot 7 Enfield D; Plat Vol. 3, page 158

Transaction	Grantor/Grantee	Vol./Page
1836, June 20	Ira Lewis, Genl. Commr. for State of Coahula & Texas to Thomas J. Chambers/State of Texas, Book C, pages 419-422. A grant of 8 leagues of land in Travis County, Texas	
1841, March 31	Patent: Mirabeau Lamar, President, Republic of Texas to George W. Spear, one league or 25,000,000 sq. vs. of land	
	Spier to Norman Woods (Bond) Woods to N. McArthur McArthur to Lamar, Joseph Moreland & Thoma	as G. Gordon
1840, Nov.	Deed of Partition: Mirabeau B. Lamar & Thoma George Spear league, 182 acres	as G. Gordon to Joseph Moreland, \$600,
1853, Nov. 26	Joseph Moreland to James B. Shaw, Controller, \$728 for 182 acres	Republic of Texas, Book F, pages 391-392.
1854, May 15	T.J. Chambers/State of Texas to James Shaw for	r \$500, 50 acres
1859, July 25	James B. Shaw to E. M. Pease, \$14,000 for trace	t of land in Spear Tract,

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	186 acres with buildings and improvements
1928, March 21	Pease heirs to Helen Hood Graham & W.M. Graham, Book 418/page 16
1928, June 12	Westenfield Development Co., W. Murray Graham, president, to Ralph Goeth & wife, Book 416, page 455. \$20,000
1930, July 23	Melita F. & Ralph C. Goeth to Emma Davis, Vol. 455/page 275. \$10,200
1962, Feb. 16	Anita E. & Theodore P. Davis to Jane Dunn & D. Jacobi Sibley Jr. \$75,000. Vol. 2415 page 491

# Occupancy Research for DAVIS-SIBLEY HOUSE at\_2210 Windsor Road, Austin, Texas\_

# **1930-1954** Emma Davis

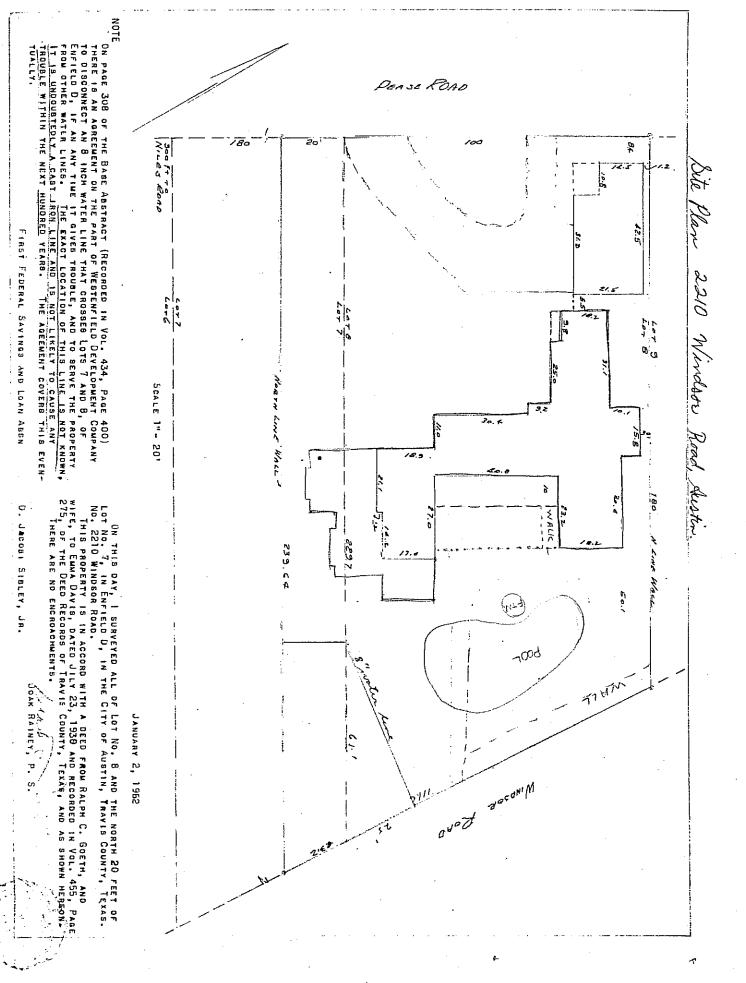
- 1930-31 Emma Davis (wid Nelson) Nelson Davis & Son, h19 Enfield Rd. (no listing for 2210 Windsor)
- 1932-33 Emma Davis, r Windsor Rd.
- 1935 Emma Davis & Theo, r 2212 Windsor Rd.
- 1937-'52 Emma Davis & Theo, r 2210 Windsor Rd.

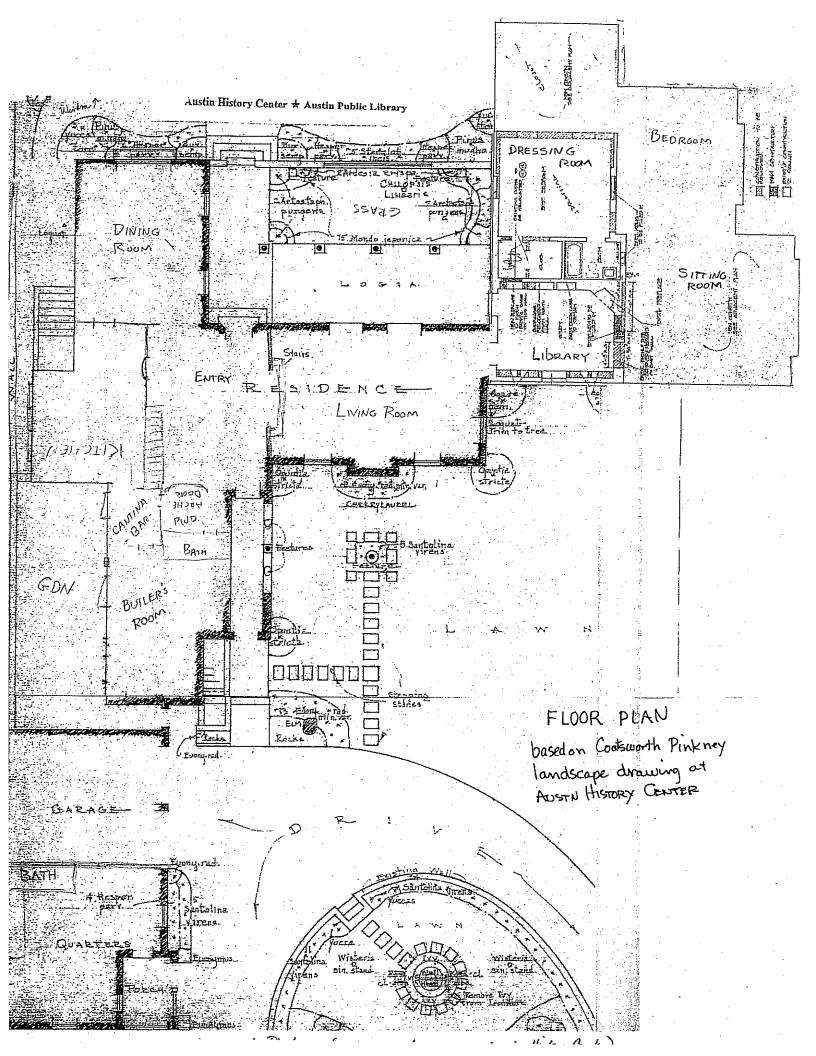
# 1954-1962Anita & Theo Davis

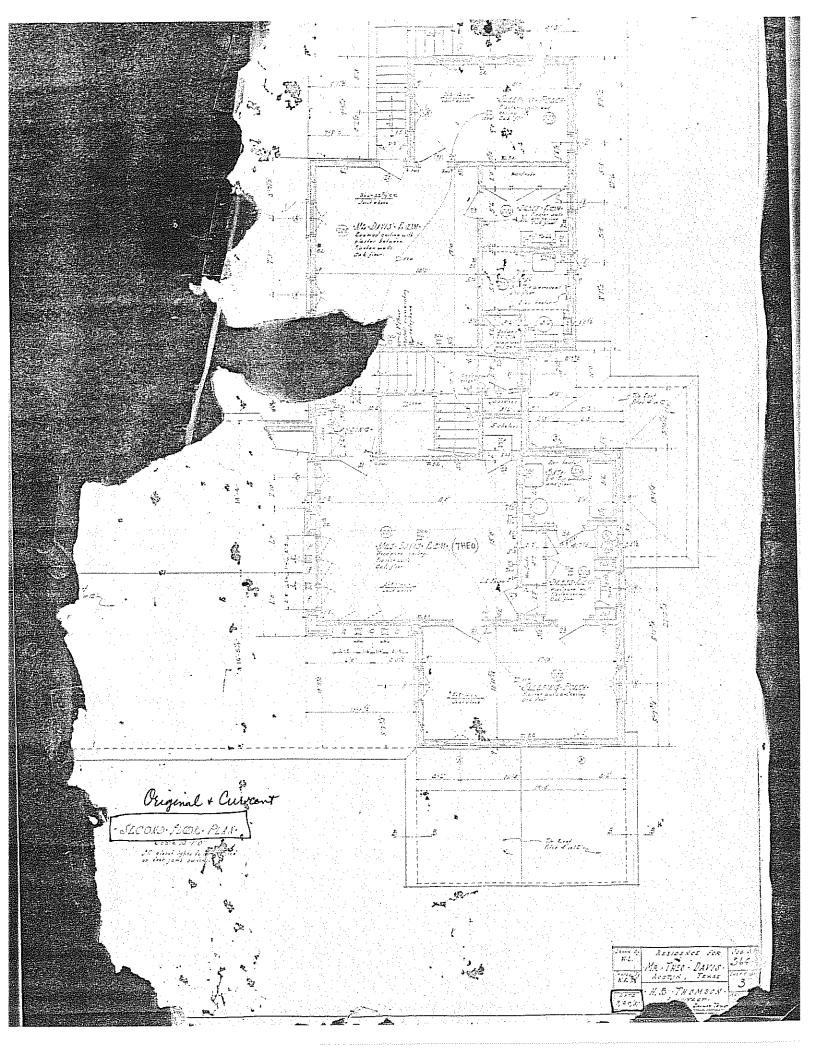
- 1953 & 54 Theo & Nita Davis, r 1600 Northumberland
- 1955-61 Theo & Nita Davis, r 2210 Windsor Rd.

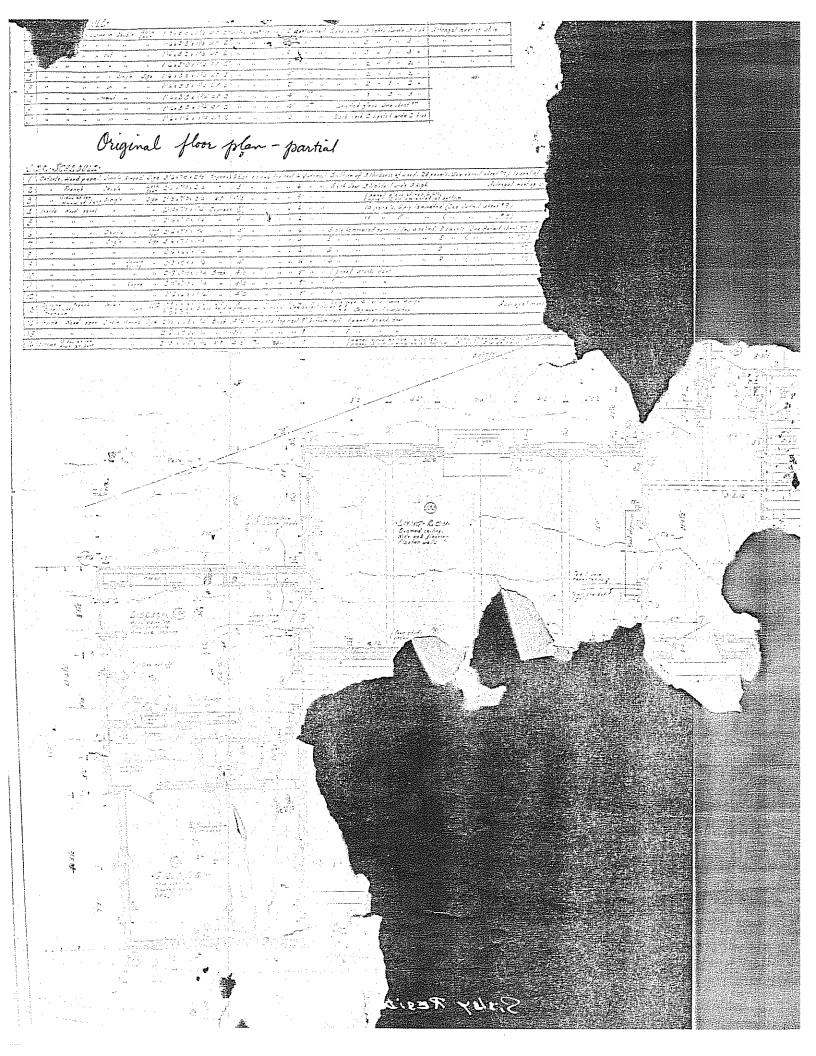
# 1962-present Jane & D.J. Sibley

- 1962 Vacant; Theo & Nita Davis, r 1600 Northumberland
- 1963 D.J. & Jane Sibley

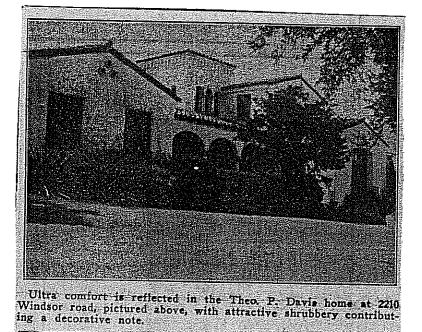












This is the only photo (undated clipping) found of the home prior to the Sibleijo purchase in 1965.





































































