

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB/CS), 9/7/2007

27" x 42" Recorded Texas Historic Landmark marker with post

Guadalupe County (Job #07GU01) Subject BH, CN (Atlas 14010 ) UTM: 14 599483E 3271137N

Location: Seguin, 308 S. Erkel Ave

### **HUGO AND GEORGIA GIBSON HOUSE**

IN 1929, DR. HUGO EMANUEL GIBSON (1894-1963) AND GEORGIA MOE (1893-1973) JOINED THE STAFF OF TEXAS LUTHERAN COLLEGE, WHICH RELOCATED TO SEGUIN FROM BRENHAM. HUGO, WHO RECEIVED DEGREES FROM AUGUSTANA COLLEGE (ILLINOIS), THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN AND AUGUSTANA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, CAME TO TEXAS LUTHERAN COLLEGE FOLLOWING A MERGER WITH TRINITY COLLEGE IN ROUND ROCK. GEORGIA MOE ARRIVED FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK CITY, WHERE SHE EARNED A MASTER'S DEGREE. IN THE SUMMER OF 1932, HUGO GIBSON AND GEORGIA MOE MARRIED; THEY RAISED TWO CHILDREN.

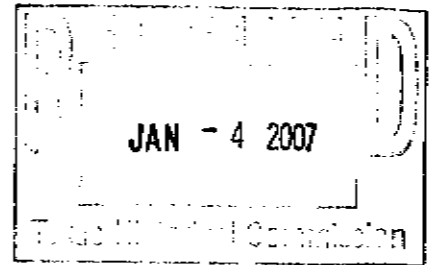
THE GIBSONS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING TEXAS LUTHERAN COLLEGE RECEIVE ACCREDITATION. DR. HUGO GIBSON SERVED AS HEAD OF THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT, SPECIALIZING IN GREEK. HE ALSO FOUNDED AND DIRECTED THE SCHOOL'S NOTED A *CAPELLA* CHOIR. PROFESSOR GEORGIA GIBSON WAS THE COLLEGE'S DEAN OF WOMEN AND PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS, AND SHE WAS PARTICULARLY INVOLVED WITH EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR THE STUDENTS.

IN 1934, THE FAMILY MOVED INTO THIS NEWLY BUILT HOUSE ON ERKEL AVENUE. BUILDER EDWARD STRICKER DESIGNED THE TWO-STORY FRAME HOUSE ON A PIER AND BEAM FOUNDATION. THE SIDE-GABLED HOUSE HAS A SECOND STORY BALCONY PORCH, TWO MAIN FIRST FLOOR ENTRIES AND TWO KITCHEN ENTRIES. DECORATIVE DETAILING INCLUDES LATTICEWORK, FRENCH DOORS, WINDOW SHUTTERS, AND OAK AND LONGLEAF PINE FLOORS.

THE GIBSON FAMILY LIVED IN THE HOUSE UNTIL 1963. ALTHOUGH THE ESTEEMED PROFESSORS HAVE PASSED AWAY, TODAY THEIR LEGACY CONTINUES TO IMPACT OTHERS, PARTICULARLY THROUGH A SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED BY FORMER STUDENTS IN THEIR MEMORY.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2007

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS



December 26, 2006

Dan Utley, Ph. D.  
Chief Historian  
History Program Division  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

Dear Dan,

Please find enclosed all hard copy exhibits for the Dennis Martin RTHL application. If the THC can return these for our archival use we would appreciate it. I apologize for not having filled out the application but as I explained to Charles, I did (do) not know how to do that electronically. I did ask for instructions on how to do this from Charles but received no response. Hence, the hard copy is enclosed with these exhibits.

Sincerely,

John Gesick

OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER APPLICATION FORM

THC use only

Please complete both sides of form.

Proposed marker title: Dennis Martin Home Gibson House  
 (Title subject to change by Texas Historical Commission staff and/or State Marker Review Board.)

County: Guadalupe Nearest town (on state highway map): Seguin  
 Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):  
308 S. EARLE Seguin, TX 78155

Will the marker go at the actual site of the topic being marked?  Yes  No If the answer is no, provide the distance and directions to the actual location from the marker (i.e. 100 yards east). Note that grave markers, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and Historic Texas Cemetery markers must be placed at the actual sites.

APPROVAL OF COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The county historical commission (CHC) must approve the marker application, narrative history and documentation before they are forwarded to the THC. The signature of the representative below signifies the CHC has reviewed and approved the application in full.

Printed name of CHC chair or marker committee chair: John GERICIS  
 Signature: John Gericis Date: 12.15.2006  
 Mailing address: 1720 Sagebiel Rd. City, zip: Seguin, TX 78155  
 Daytime phone: 830-379-6717 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: egericis@tlu.edu

\*The CHC or marker committee chair will be the primary contact regarding the application. The marker committee chair's signature is valid only if notification is properly filed with the THC (call 512/463-5853 to request a form).

PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Permission from the property owner for placement of a marker is required. Provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization or public entity. Do not complete this section if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Name: Dennis MARTIN  
 Contact person (if applicable): Dennis MARTIN City, zip: 208 S. EARLE Seguin, TX 78155  
 Mailing address: See Above  
 Phone: 830-560-6952 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: dmartin@seguin.tx.us  
 Owner's signature: X Dennis Martin Lain-Laine Jordan

Do you wish to receive copies of all correspondence concerning this marker application?  Yes  No

PAYMENT INFORMATION (payment form will be sent to the following):

Name: Dennis MARTIN  
 Contact person (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing address: Above City, zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime phone: Above Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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 and time delays, use a business street address (Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday). If the marker is to be placed on state highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.

Name: Dennis MARTIN  
 Street address: 308 S. EARLE  
 City, zip: Seguin, TX 78155 Daytime phone: 830-560-6952

**TYPE AND SIZE OF MARKER DESIRED**

**■ SUBJECT MARKERS**

Subject markers are educational in nature and convey no legal restrictions to the property. They are appropriate for topics such as church congregations, schools, towns, businesses, persons, events and institutions. These markers should not be attached to buildings; if the marker is to be attached to a surface other than the foundry-provided post, please provide the requested information in the space below.

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) ..... \$ 425
- 27" x 42" marker with post ..... \$1,250
- 27" x 42" marker without post (for attachment to \_\_\_\_\_) ..... \$1,150
- 18" x 28" marker with post ..... \$ 850
- 18" x 28" marker without post (for attachment to \_\_\_\_\_) ..... \$ 750

**■ RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS**

Markers conveying the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation are reserved solely for historic structures deemed worthy of recognition for their architectural integrity and historical associations. The RTHL designation carries a measure of legal protection (see Marker Policies 13 through 18), therefore a legal description (lot and block numbers) is required. The most commonly used marker for conveying the designation is the medallion and plaque (also referred to as a building marker); however, subject markers may also be used to provide more information. If the marker is to be mounted directly onto a structure, care should be taken to avoid damaging historic building material. Note that RTHL markers must go at the site for which the designation is given.

- Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post ..... \$ 525
- Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post (for attachment to \_\_\_\_\_) ..... \$ 425
- 27" x 42" marker with post ..... \$1,250
- 27" x 42" marker without post (for attachment to \_\_\_\_\_) ..... \$1,150
- 18" x 28" marker with post ..... \$ 850
- 18" x 28" marker without post (for attachment to \_\_\_\_\_) ..... \$ 750

Legal description of property (lot and block number; metes and bounds):

*The house is on a 0.502 acre. of land more or less being comprised of Lot 1, Lot 2, and the South 1/2 of Lot 3, City Block 1038, of the Dillard Starcke Investment Companies Subdivision, City of Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas.*

**■ HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY MARKERS**

The purchase and display of a historical marker is not a required component of the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation, but the HTC offers options for those situations in which a marker will contribute to preservation or interpretation. Only cemeteries with the HTC designation are eligible for HTC markers, and the designation process must be complete before a marker application can be processed. Once the designation is awarded, no additional documentation is required for an HTC medallion or medallion with name and date plaque. For medallions with interpretive plaques, however, the same type of history and documentation required for subject markers and RTHL markers is necessary.

Medallions only and medallions with name and date plaques:

- Medallion only, without post (for attachment to \_\_\_\_\_) ..... \$ 250
- Medallion only, with hardware to attach to existing state historical marker post ..... \$ 300
- Medallion only, with post ..... \$ 400
- Medallion and 12" x 6" name and date plaque, without post (for attachment to \_\_\_\_\_) ..... \$ 500
- Medallion and 12" x 6" name and date plaque, with post ..... \$ 600

Medallions with interpretive plaques:

- Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque, without post (for attachment to \_\_\_\_\_) ..... \$ 650
- Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque, with post ..... \$ 750
- Medallion and 16" x 24" plaque, without post (for attachment to \_\_\_\_\_) ..... \$ 850
- Medallion and 16" x 24" plaque, with post ..... \$ 950

When the application packet is complete, forward the required application form, historical narrative, footnotes/endnotes, bibliography, photos and maps to the county historical commission. Once the authorized CHC representative has signed this form and reviewed the packet, mail both to: History Programs Division, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276.

For more information contact:  
 Texas Historical Commission, History Programs Division  
 P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276  
 512/463-5853, Fax 512/475-3122  
 www.thc.state.tx.us  
 Rev. 3/2003



**TEXAS  
 HISTORICAL  
 COMMISSION**

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

**Application  
December 15, 2006  
308 S Erkel Avenue  
Seguin, TX 78155**

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**Application  
December 15, 2006**

**Property Owners Name:**

Dennis Martin and Marie-Carmel Bordes

**Historical Property Address:**

308 S Erkel Avenue, Seguin, TX 78155

**Mailing Address (if different):**

N/A

**Contact Phone Number:**

830-560-6852

**E-mail Address:**

[dmartinseguin@yahoo.com](mailto:dmartinseguin@yahoo.com)

**OVERVIEW OF THE PROPERTY**

**General Description:**

- The house is a two-story building with a pier and beam construction and a wood exterior. The approximate square footage is 2, 250 with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and 2 balconies on the second floor and the first with living room, dining room, kitchen, study and half-bath.

**Year built:**

- 1934

**Renovation and systems upgrades:**

- September 2005-February 2006

**Built by:**

- Dr. Hugo Gibson, the original owner of the house, and Edward Stricker, the builder, designed the house with the design placed on blueprints. <sup>1</sup>

**Location:**

- The house is on a 0.502 acre of land, more or less, being comprised of Lot 1, Lot 2, and the south ½ of Lot 3, City Block 1038, of the Dibrell-Starcke Investment Company's Subdivision, City of Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas. <sup>2</sup>

**Owners:**

- Hugo and Georgia Moe Gibson                      May 13, 1933 to August 09, 1965
- Helmuth and Veima Stautzenberger                      August 09, 1965 to September 14, 2005
- Dennis Martin and Marie-Carmel Bordes                      September 14, 2005 to Present

**Historical Sites and Points of Interest:**

- Three blocks from the house is the Sebastopol House State Historic Site, a Recorded Historical Landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is five blocks from the Moore House a Recorded Historical Landmark, and seven blocks from the Juan Seguin Burial Site. The south boundary line of the property is contiguous to the Seguin Veterans Park.

## THE HOUSE

### **General:**

- According to David Walbert, general contractor, the house, although built in 1934, has a modern feel. There is an elegant flow and appearance that is uncommon in many older homes. The design includes raised, partially vaulted (coffer) ceilings in many of the rooms with a switchback staircase at the center of the house that creates a natural airflow to all the rooms equally except for the study. The design of the bedrooms assures both airflow and privacy.

### **Structure:**

- Structurally, the house has many unique features. They built the foundation using a deep pier and beam made of concrete. There are no cracks in the foundation. This added stability by disbursing the weight of the house. Today, there are only two small cracks in the plaster. The sill is made of cypress. The builder used balloon framing.
- In more than twenty years of renovating older homes, this is the only house Mr. Walbert has seen in the South with both plaster walls and ceilings throughout. The windows also are uncommon for the period because of the size and expense of the glass; they are one over one, double-hung windows. They are in immaculate condition. The roof is a work of art and very precise. The contractor built it in such a way that few nails were necessary with the hip and valley made by hand. The original roof had cedar shingles but now has a new metal roof. Another unique feature of the house is the arches built over the bathtubs.<sup>3</sup>



### **The Exterior:**

- The house is a two-story building with a yellow pine wood exterior. A unique feature is the walkways leading to the front, side and kitchen porches. The walkway is made of concrete with stones added for decoration. The front porch, H 0.6' x W 6.8' x D 9.6', has partial covering from the second floor balcony. The porch has a brick border around a concrete floor. The entrance door has windows three over five. The porch of the south side of the house is H 0.7' x W 8.7' x D 15.0'. This covered porch has lattice work on all four corners. A former owner removed the lattice but during the renovation it was restored using photos made during the construction of the house as a guide. There is a pair of French doors with windows, one over five leading to the living room. The kitchen porch, H 0.5' x W 3.1' x D 5.0', is concrete with an overhang. The door has windows, two over three, with two wood panels on the lower portion.

### **The First Floor:**

- All of floors are oak except the kitchen and half-bath floors which are longleaf pine. Linoleum tile was removed in the kitchen, the floor cleaned and stained. The tile was removed in the half-bath and replaced with ceramic tile.
- The living room is H 8.5' x W 22.5' x D 14.0'. There are three windows, a fireplace with mantle, two built-in bookcases and an archway leading to the hallway. The fireplace has the original wood mantle, the original ceramic tiles bordering the fireplace, and a trap door leading to the outside of the house for clearing ashes and debris. Leaving the living

room, there is a hallway, H 8.5' x W 5.5' x D 15.5', with four archways providing access to the dining room, study, closet, front door, staircase to the second floor, and the kitchen area. The dining room, H 8.5' x W 13.0' x D 14.0', has vaulted ceilings (coffer), three windows, two built-in china cabinets and a swinging door leading to the kitchen. The study, H 8.0' x W 9.7' x D 8.9', has two windows and two built-in bookcases. There is a foyer and hallway closet, approximately H 8.0' x W 4.7' x D 9.5'.

- Two doors, one leading to the dining room and the other to the hallway and staircase, separate the kitchen and half-bath from the rest of the house. The main kitchen area is H 8.5' x W 18.5' x D 13.3' with an area of H 8.5' x W 6.1' x D 3.8' for passage to the dining room and a place for an ice box. The original kitchen was H 8.5' x W 11.0' x D 7.0', the breakfast dining area was H 8.5' x W 9.5' x D 7.0' and there was a hallway. The original kitchen area had four windows, a door leading from the breakfast room to a hallway, and one exterior door. With the renovation, one window was removed and replaced with a door to provide access to the backyard and the door leading from the breakfast area was removed and replaced with a wall. Modifications were made to walls to open the area and to modernize the kitchen. The original kitchen cabinets remain with minor modifications. A unique feature includes a wall alcove for the telephone. The area leading to the dining room includes space for an ice box. The access door for ice delivery remains but is not functional. There is also a built-in cabinet for dishes and other dining items. Next to the kitchen is the half bath, H 6.7' x W 4.5' x D 7.0', with one window. The original floor was linoleum but is now ceramic tile. There is a built-in floor cabinet for storing toiletries.

### **The Second Floor:**

- All floors are oak except the bathroom floors which are longleaf pine. The ceramic tile replaced the linoleum floor covering.
- The stairwell leading to the second floor has a switchback staircase and one window
- The guest bedroom, H 8.3' x W 13.0' x D 9.5', has vaulted (coffer) ceilings. There is one closet. Originally there were three windows. One window was replaced with a door to have access to the balcony. According to Mrs. Elsie Margaret Gustafson, the Gibsons wanted a door to the balcony but because of their small children decided on a window. The uncovered balcony is W 5.0' x D 6.0' with a small railing added to meet building code requirements. The guest bathroom, H 8.3' x W 4.8' x D 7.8', has one window.
- The hallway, H 8.3' x W 5.0' x D 11.0', has built-in drawers, cabinet and storage area above. There is a cedar-lined closet with storage area above lined with cedar. A unique feature includes a wall alcove for the telephone.
- The master bedroom, H 8.3' x W 13.1' x D 17.8', has one closet, five windows, and a vaulted (coffer) ceiling. A unique feature is a built-in window seat with storage. The bathroom, H 8.3' x W 7.5' x D 7.8', has one closet, one window, and provides access to both rooms on the east side of the house. The other room is the sitting room, H 8.3' x W 20.5' x D 14.0', and has a vaulted (coffer) ceiling. There are three windows and two sets of French doors leading to the balcony. The doors are one over five. There is one closet. Above the closet is a storage area. The covered balcony off the sitting room is H 8.6' x W 22.6' x D 3.5'.

## THE PEOPLE

### **Context**

By the beginning of the twentieth century, Seguin was an established trading center and community with an economic, legal and physical infrastructure. For Seguin, the end of the frontier period occurred in the twenties and a new frontier began, the era of oil. The new frontier saved the area the worst aspects of the depression. Seguin found itself in the middle of Texas' second largest oil field, the Darst oil field. By the thirties, there were five banks in Seguin, the Chamber of Commerce painted a "rosy" economic picture, and the expectation was the population would double to 15,000 in five years. Seguin focused on schools, government, church, businesses and the State Centennial in 1936 and the City's Centennial in 1938. By the end of the decade, with the nation's depression in the background and the rumors of war, the Seguin citizenry soon found itself involved totally in the war effort. In the fifties, Seguin remained vibrant and alive and the 1960's and 1970's continued the post-World War II expansion.<sup>4</sup>

Early in the twentieth century, the Seguin Business Men's Club made an offer to Texas Lutheran University (TLU), then a pro-seminary, to move from Brenham, Texas to Seguin. The acceptance of the offer was beneficial to both TLU and Seguin. In Brenham, TLU found itself in financial difficulty and in a losing competition with Blinn College and Seguin needed a college (high school). What is known as "The Seguin Offer" included 15 acres of land, ten years of free water and electricity, and cash of \$20,000. The city requested matching funds and stipulated that a coeducational institution be maintained for at least 15 years. The college opened in the fall of

1912.<sup>5</sup> From this time until 1928, the school evolved from a non-accredited high school to an accredited junior college. In 1929, there was a partial merger with Trinity (Swedish Lutheran) College of Round Rock.

### **Overview**

For the fall semester of 1929 an almost entirely new teaching staff was necessary due to the accreditation requirements for a junior college.<sup>6</sup> Calls went out to recruit a nucleus of dedicated people with the appropriate academic background.<sup>7</sup> Georgia Moe Gibson heard the call in New York City and came from Columbia University while Hugo Gibson came from the merger with Trinity College. During their time at TLU (Dr. Hugo Gibson passed away in 1962 and Professor Georgia Moe Gibson retired in 1965) the institution received recognition as a fully-accredited senior college by the Texas Association of Colleges, 1948-1949, and by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1953. Today, Texas Lutheran University is recognized consistently at the national level for its excellent education.<sup>8</sup> In 2005, for the twenty-second year, Texas Lutheran University was listed in the *U.S. News & World Report* college rankings as one of the nation's best regional comprehensive colleges.<sup>9</sup>

In the summer of 1932, Hugo Gibson and Georgia Moe married and Georgia became mother to a ten year old daughter, Lois. In 1934 Georgia gave birth to their son George Hugo. This is also the time the family along with Hugo's mother moved to their newly built house on Erkel Avenue.<sup>10</sup> The Gibsons created an environment where not only family felt at home but also friends, students, TLU faculty, officials of the Lutheran church, and noted local families such as the Weinerts, Traegers, Vivrouxs, Wuests, Bakers, Donegans, and Bucks. From multiple sources

we hear of the hospitality, the singing and playing of musical instruments, the dinners with fine food and great conversation, the tutoring of students, the theological discussions between Reverend Gibson and Jehovah's Witnesses, and most famous of all, the Christmas festivities.

George Gibson writes that "The highlight of the year was Christmas Eve.... Christmas Eve was a feast to remember!" There were lights on the bushes and candles in every window and people throughout Seguin would drive by, stop and look.<sup>11</sup> Christmas must have been impressive. John Thorsen, a grandson of Hugo and Georgia, states that his first contact with the house was two days after Christmas in 1944 when he was six-days old. He missed only one Christmas at the family homestead for the next 18 years, driving from North Dakota, North Carolina, California and Miami, Florida. John goes on to say that a family tradition of making a Christmas cedar wreath which was used the following Christmas to start the Yule log began on that first Christmas at 308 Erkel has now passed unbroken through three generations.<sup>12</sup>

The yard was a magical place for children. Over the years, the family had many pets and animals including: dogs, cats, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea hens and a goat.<sup>13</sup> George hooked up Molly the goat to his wagon and she pulled him around the neighborhood.<sup>14</sup> There was a coop full of chickens, pigeons and eggs, a vegetable garden, flower gardens, fruit trees, a pecan grove, and a strawberry patch where children would eat so many strawberries they became ill. The giant elm offered a refuge for story-telling and more eating.<sup>15</sup>

Jim Thorsen a grandson of Hugo and Georgia Gibson describes the meaning of this home to so many people. "Their place was a safe harbor, a warm, welcoming and friendly place, a place full of love and ... fun." <sup>16</sup>

### **Significance**

As they were important to family, friends, students and others, Hugo Gibson, "the perfect gentleman" <sup>17</sup> and Georgia Moe Gibson, a woman of great compassion and wisdom <sup>18</sup> are an important part of the history of Texas Lutheran University. They are members of "the basic nine" of the early junior college staff and were instrumental in achieving senior college accreditation. <sup>19</sup> Their son George is an internationally renowned performer and teacher with his students singing in all the opera houses of the world. <sup>20</sup>

Reverend Dr. Hugo Gibson was a Professor of Foreign Languages and head of the foreign languages department at TLU. He came to TLU through the partial merger with Trinity College. When President Kraushaar of TLU organized the faculty in 1929, he had to assign extracurricular activities; he gave Hugo the choir. According to the President, Hugo saw his first attempt at directing the choir a failure but after the first real concert in Hallettsville in November of 1929, there was no question about his success as a choir leader. <sup>21</sup> Dr. Hugo Gibson became the founder and first director of the oldest touring a cappella choir in the nation's Southwest. Over the years, the choir has been one of TLU's finest public relations and advertising media. He remained Director until 1944. <sup>22</sup>

For a third of a century every pre-theological student at TLC studied Greek under Gibson. Pre-theological students have sat motionless listening to accounts of his travels abroad, tales of Greek mythology or stirring speeches in Spanish or Greek. Luther Oelke in the Living History mentions that he heard from several pastors that Hugo was their pastor when they were his students. "Taking Greek is a traumatic experience anyhow for a lot of students, but their relationship with Prof Gibson was really beautiful. How he helped them."<sup>23</sup> At the time of his death in 1963, he was chairman of the Library Committee, co-chair with his wife of The "Golden Anniversary in Seguin" Committee, a member of the Appointment and Rank Committee and sponsor for the Phi Beta Kappa, honor society for freshman and sophomore students at Texas Lutheran.<sup>24</sup>

In the Living History, Leona Bogisch states that the TLU yearbook, The Growl, was dedicated to the Gibsons as follows, "We the Growl staff, sincerely dedicate this 1961 edition of the Growl to Dr. and Mrs. Hugo E. Gibson who have faithfully and unselfishly served Texas Lutheran College over twenty-five years. Their fine Christian example as husband and wife and as professors has been a source of inspiration to us all..."<sup>25</sup>

Georgia Moe Gibson received her MA from Colombia University in 1929 and came to Texas Lutheran College as Dean of Women and Professor of Mathematics. She served at TLC from 1929-65 years and was dean of women for 3 years. After marrying Hugo in 1932, she remained at home to raise their daughter Lois with their son George born in 1934. In the late 1930's she returned to teaching at TLU. Georgia Gibson continued singing and traveling with the choir and



worked with student groups such as the Kappa Pi Gamma sorority and the Pre-Theological Society, and she helped organize and direct homecoming activities.<sup>26</sup>

There is a scholarship fund and an endowment fund at TLU established under the names of Hugo and Georgia Gibson. Former students of the professors established the Hugo and Georgia Gibson Memorial Scholarship Fund in 1963 to honor their memory and distinguished careers. After Georgia Gibson died in 1973, the name of the fund was changed to include her name. The fund is for students studying foreign languages or mathematics. The corpus of this fund is approximately \$11,000. In 1983, former students of the professors Gibson established the Hugo and Georgia Gibson Endowment Fund to support TLU faculty and staff to realize their academic and spiritual potential. The corpus of this fund is approximately \$115,000.<sup>27</sup>

George Gibson's career in music began at a young age when he learned to play the piano with Sister Jane at St. James Catholic School in Seguin.<sup>28</sup> George spent two years at TLU and sang in the choir started by his father. The University of Miami offered him a scholarship and he graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance. He went on to earn a Fulbright Scholarship to study music in Germany, a Master of Music in Voice Performance from The University of Texas at Austin, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Opera Performance from The University of Southern California. In 1981, TLU presented George with the Distinguished Alumni Award.<sup>29</sup>

Dr. Gibson's repertoire consists of about sixty-five leading opera, oratorio, and musical theater roles in The United States and Europe.<sup>30</sup> The New York City Opera Company offered George a

position as a singer but he declined in order to focus fully on his university level teaching career that had begun immediately after his studies at The University of Texas.<sup>31</sup>

In 1967, George began teaching at Wichita State University (WSU) and during his tenure as Professor of Voice and Director of Opera Theater; the opera theater grew as he served in all capacities: producer, stage director, coach, and conductor.<sup>32</sup> After retiring from WSU, he taught at the Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati; the School of Music, University of Arizona; and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.<sup>33</sup> He has a voice studio in Washington, DC and is in demand as a master teacher and clinician. He has current and former students singing in all the major opera houses of the world, as well as, on Broadway in New York City. His former and current students include Beverly Hoch, Samuel Ramey, Karla Burns, Alan Held, Karla Burns, Joyce DiDonato, Charleen Ayers, Thomas Baresel, and Myrna Paris to name a few.<sup>34</sup> The George Gibson Opera Fellowship is awarded annually to a Wichita State university graduate or senior undergraduate student enrolled in the College of Fine Arts Opera Program.<sup>35</sup>

The second owners of the house were Helmuth and Velma Stautzenberger. They purchased the house from Georgia Moe Gibson in 1963.

Helmuth Stautzenberger's grandfather Jacob, arrived in Indianola, Texas from Hessen-Nassau Germany, in 1852. Velma Schraub Stautzenberger's great grandfather, Philipp Schraub, Sr. arrived in Indianola in 1845 on *The Neptune*. Helmuth was born in Prairie Lee, Texas and Velma was born in a home on College Street in Seguin.

Helmuth attended Friedens Evangeical & Reformed Church in Geronimo, Texas and graduated from Navarro High School. Helmuth got his nickname "Bugs" when he was in a high school play called "Bugs Goes Bughouse". He was a plumber and attended business school in San Antonio. He learned to play the saxophone and played in bands.

Velma grew up on her mother's (Mathilda Bertha Warncke) family farm near New Berlin, Texas close to the Elm Creek Lutheran Church and FM 467. At age eleven, Velma learned to play the church organ from Reverend Freigh (may not be the correct spelling) and by the age of twelve played in the church. She bought a piano and began playing with local bands. She and Helmuth played in the Happy Ramblers Band and the Oscar Tewes Band until 1947.

Velma Schraub and Helmuth Stautzenberger married on May 15, 1937. They had two children. John Edwin Stautzenberger was born on March 30, 1939 in Seguin but died in an automobile accident in Abilene, Texas in 1956. Marie Ruth Statuzenberger was born on May 12, 1941 in Seguin, graduated from Seguin High School, and attended business college in Austin. She married Wilfred J. "Tony" Taylor in 1959.

Because of World War II, Helmuth became very interested in flying, attended flight school and became a pilot. Helmuth, however, was color blind, was married and had children. The Army Air Corps would not accept him for these reasons.<sup>36</sup> Helmuth, however, became a capitan in the Civil Air Patrol during the war. Velma was always a forward thinker, and went through flight school after the war, but because of the disapproval of friends and family, she never got her

pilot's license.<sup>37</sup> After the war, Helmuth and Velma purchased land east of Seguin and built the first Seguin airport.<sup>38</sup>

## End Notes

<sup>1</sup> Elsie Margaret Gustafson, Interview, May 2006, Mrs. Gustafson is the former neighbor of the Gibsons and she and her husband Arthur taught at Texas Lutheran University. The document is in the applicants' custody.

<sup>2</sup> Butz Land Surveying, "Survey Plat and Field Notes," September 12, 2005.

<sup>3</sup> David Walbert, the general contractor for the 2005 – 2006 renovations , Interview, 06 December 2006, The document is in the applicants' custody.

<sup>4</sup> John E. Gesick, Jr. Under the Live Oak Tree: A History of Seguin (Seguin: Tommy Brown Printing, 1995), pp. 211, 214.

<sup>5</sup> Arthur G. Wiederaenders, Coming of Age: A History of Texas Lutheran College (San Antonio: Paul Anderson, 1978), pp. 27-29, 36.

<sup>6</sup> Wiederaenders, Coming of Age, pp. 61-72.

<sup>7</sup> Arthur G. Wiederaenders, TLC's First Century: An Age of Growing Excellence 1891 – 1991 (Lubbock: Craftsman Printers, 1990), p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Evelyn Streng, Speech honoring Georgia Moe Gibson on September 16, 1964. Available at the Texas Lutheran University Blumberg Memorial Library archives room.

<sup>9</sup> "TLU Recognized again as One of America's Best Colleges Texas Lutheran University," 19 August 2005, <<http://www.tlu.edu/news/stories/05/08/081905.html>>.

<sup>10</sup> Streng, Speech.

<sup>11</sup> George Gibson, Interview, 21 June 2006, Letter, 21 November 2006, E-mail, 27 November 2006. The documents are in the custody of the applicant. On June 21, 2006, George Gibson and his wife traveled from Tuscon, Arizona to visit the house and meet the new owners. Three of

Hugo and Georgia Gibsons grandchildren, John and Jim Thorsen, and Ruth Hawkins, all from the Houston area, came to see the old homestead. John Thorson in his E-mail of November 29, 2006 wrote: "It is a remarkable home with a remarkable history, and has touched the lives of a lot of people."

<sup>12</sup> John Thorsen, E-mail, 29 November 2006. The document is in the applicants' custody.

<sup>13</sup> Jim Thorsen, E-mail, 3 December 2006. The documents is in the applicants' custody.

<sup>14</sup> George Gibson, Letter.

<sup>15</sup> John Thorsen, E-mail.

<sup>16</sup> Jim Thorsen, E-mail.

<sup>17</sup> Luther Oelke, A Living History of Texas Lutheran College: Dialogs by Old-timers Who Helped Make TLC, 1973-1974: Remembering Dr. and Mrs. Hugo Gibson, recorded on cassettes with transcription by A. G. Wiederaenders, 1975, available at the Texas Lutheran University Blumberg Memorial Library archives room, p. 76. Dr. William Kraushaar, President of TLU from 1929 to 1953, spoke these words.

<sup>18</sup> Luther Oelke, A Living History, transcript p.82. This comment is from Leona Bogisch who, except for 1942, was on the TLU staff from 1935 to 1974, except for 1942.

<sup>19</sup> Wiederaenders, Coming of Age, p. 76.

<sup>20</sup> George Gibson, Letter.

<sup>21</sup> Luther Oelke, A Living History, transcript p.75. Comment is from Krushaar.

<sup>22</sup> Wiederaenders, Coming of Age, p.165.

<sup>23</sup> Luther Oelke, A Living History, transcript p.76. Comment is from Oelke.

<sup>24</sup> "TLC Language Prof. Dies at 68," Lone Star Lutheran: Student Publication of Texas Lutheran College, Vol. XLIV, Number 14, February 2, 1963; 1.

<sup>25</sup> Luther Oelke, A Living History, transcript p.78. This comment is from Leona Bogisch.

<sup>26</sup> Streng, Speech.

<sup>27</sup> Steve Anderson, Texas Lutheran University, University Relations Office, written materials and interviews about the Hugo and Georgia Gibson Endowment and Scholarship Funds, 28 – 29 November 2006.

<sup>28</sup> George Gibson, Letter.

<sup>29</sup> Steve Anderson, written materials.

<sup>30</sup> “WSU Choir, Chorale, Symphony to Mix with City Chamber Chorale,” Wichita State University, 18 April 2006, <[http://www.wichita.edu/online/news/?\\_A=article&\\_NID=2293](http://www.wichita.edu/online/news/?_A=article&_NID=2293)>.

<sup>31</sup> George Gibson, Letter.

<sup>32</sup> “WSU Choir, Chorale, Symphony to Mix with City Chamber Chorale,” Wichita State University.

<sup>33</sup> George Gibson, Letter.

<sup>34</sup> George Gibson, Letter and “WSU Choir, Chorale, Symphony to Mix with City Chamber Chorale.”

<sup>35</sup> “George Gibson Opera Fellowship,” Wichita State University, School of Performing Arts, <<http://finearts.wichita.edu/performing/opera.asp>>.

<sup>36</sup> Marie Taylor, prepared notes on Stautzenberger family history, 9 December 2006. The document is in applicants’ custody.

<sup>37</sup> Marie Taylor, Interview, 13 December 2006. The document is in applicants’ custody.

<sup>38</sup> Marie Taylor, Prepared notes.

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Gibson, George H. E-mail, 27 November 2006. Document in applicants' custody.

Gibson, George H. Letter, 21 November 2006. Document in applicants' custody.

Gibson, Mary Jane. E-mail, 3 December 2006. Document in applicants' custody.

Gustafson, Elsie Margaret. Interview, May 2006. Document in applicants' custody.

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Thorsen, John. E-mail, 29 November 2006. Document in applicants' custody.

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"TLU Recognized again as One of America's Best Colleges Texas Lutheran University." 19 August 2005. <<http://www.tlu.edu/news/stories/05/08/081905.html>>.

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---. TLC's First Century: An Age of Growing Excellence 1891 - 1991. Lubbock: Craftsman Printers, 1990.

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<[http://www.wichita.edu/online/news/?\\_A=article&\\_NID=2293](http://www.wichita.edu/online/news/?_A=article&_NID=2293)>.

Appendix A  
Biographical Notes

The Gibson Family:

Dr. Hugo Emanuel Gibson

Born in Cadillac, Michigan on July 9, 1894

Died in Seguin on February 1, 1963

Degrees-

Augustana College, Bachelor of Arts

Augustana Theological Seminary, Master of Arts

University of Texas, Austin, Master of Arts

Augustana College, Honorary Doctor of Divinity

Georgia Moe Gibson

Born in Osage, Iowa on September 16, 1893

Died in Seguin on March 25, 1973

Degrees-

St. Olaf College BA

Columbia University, MA

Taught math and served as dean at the West Central School of Agriculture now a part of the University of Minnesota system.

**Dr. George Hugo Gibson**

Born in Seguin, Texas on November 04, 1934.

**Degrees-**

The University of Miami, Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance

The University of Texas at Austin, Master of Music in Voice Performance

University of Southern California, Doctor of Musical Arts in Opera Performance

**Honors and Awards-**

Fulbright Scholarship to study music in Germany

Distinguished Alumnus, Texas Lutheran University

Alumni Association Outstanding Graduate, DMA; University of Southern California, School of Music

Alumni Association Outstanding Graduate, DMA; University of Southern California, Department of Opera

Governor's Art Award, Kansas Governor Joan Finney and Kansas Arts Commission

Leadership in the Advancement of Teaching Award; Wichita State University

College of Fine Arts Excellence in Teaching Award; Wichita State University

Academy for Effective Teaching Award; Wichita State University

Individual Recognition Award; Wichita/Sedgwick County Arts & Humanities Council

**The Stautzenberger Family:**

**Helmuth Edwin "Bugs" Stautzenberger**

Born in Prairie Lee, Texas on September 25, 1907

Died in Seguin May 22, 1971

### Velma E. Stautzenberger

Born at a home on College Street in Seguin on April 7, 1912

Died in Seguin on August 30, 2002

### The Family

Helmuth's father was Otto Stautzenberger. He was born on September 2, 1876 and died on June 24, 1935. Otto married Ida Jung and they had nine children. Helmuth's grandfather was Jacob Christian Stautzenberger, the oldest of five children. He was born in Hessen-Nassau, Germany on January 10, 1845. The whole family immigrated to Texas in 1852 arriving at Indianola. Jacob married Marie Link on December 28, 1867. They had 14 children. Jacob served as the Justice of the Peace in the Clear Springs area for many years.

Velma's father was Louis C. Schraub. He was born March 4, 1878 in Guadalupe County, Texas and died in San Antonio, Texas on February 05, 1966. Her grandfather was Philipp Jacob Schraub, Jr who was born on September 12, 1845 in Nassau, Germany. He married Katharina Marie Wilhelmine "Mina" Borgfeld on January 29, 1874. He served in the Confederate army and was stationed in Louisiana. It is said that after the war, he and another boy from this area stole some horses and headed home to Texas. Velma's great grandfather was Philipp Jacob Schraub, Sr. He was born on February 2, 1809 in Nassau, Germany and died on March 3, 1858 in Comal County. He emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1845 on *The Neptune* and disembarked at Indianola, Texas.

Velma's mother was Mathilda Bertha Warncke who was born in Guadalupe County, Texas on December 20, 1878. Her grandfather was Heinrich Warncke, Sr. born March 11, 1839 and died

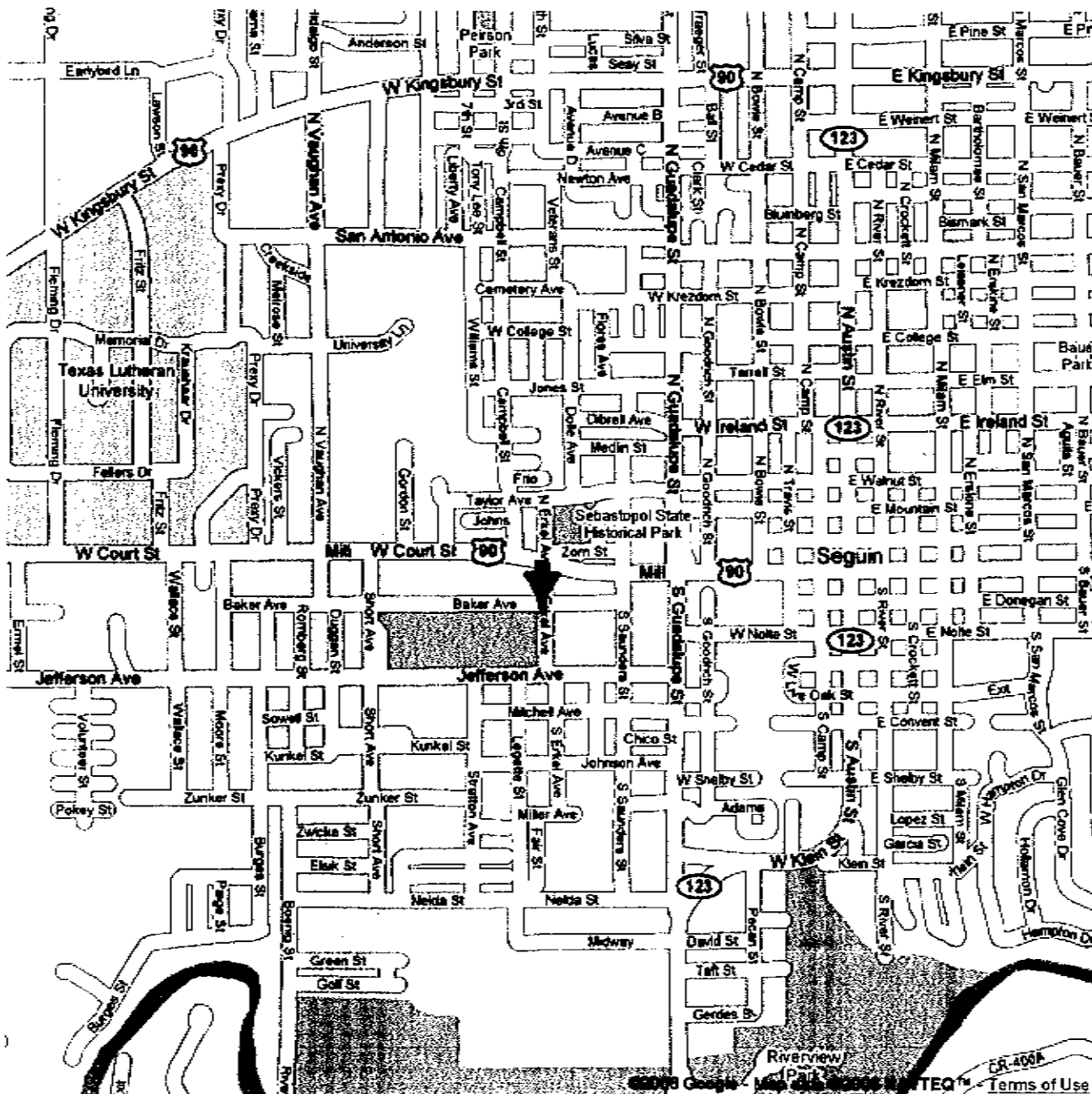
March 19, 1908. Her grandmother was Elizabeth Eitzmann. Heinrich and Elizabeth emigrated from Bremen, Germany in the 1860's, landing in New York City. They lived in Ohio, possibly near Defiance, with the Eitzmann family until coming to Texas by train. The family settled in New Berlin, Texas. Heinrich and Elizabeth had eleven children that survived; Mathilda was the sixth child.

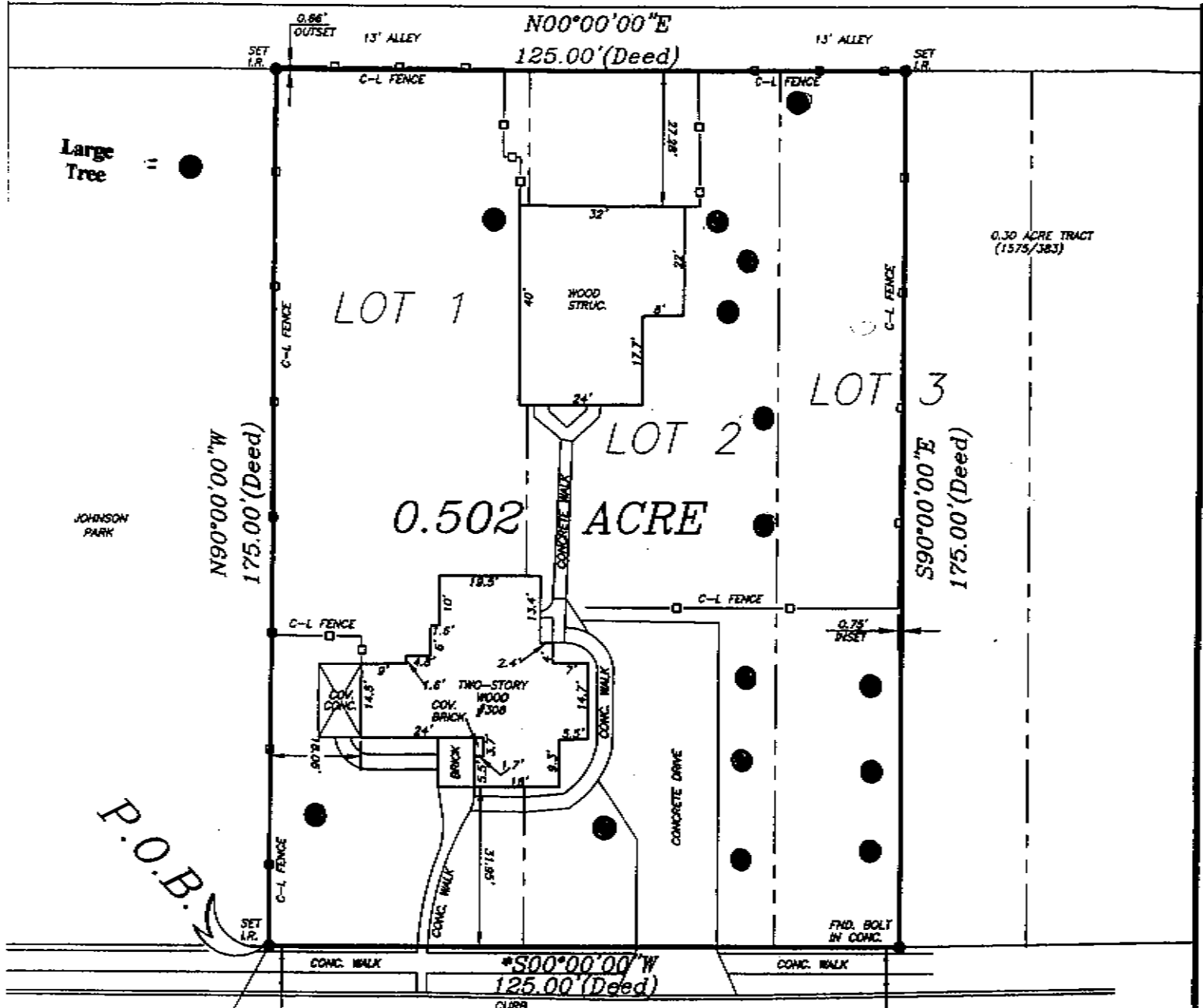
Velma and Helmuth bought the house at 308 Erkel in 1963 and Velma remained there until 1989 because she could no longer handle the stairs. Her grandson, Tony Wade Taylor moved into the house with his family, wife Elease Brewer, and twin sons, Anthony and Richard. They lived in the house until 2004.

Velma and Marie sold the Western Auto Store in 1980.



Address **308 S Erkel Ave**  
**Seguin, TX 78155**





0.502 ACRE

0.30 ACRE TRACT  
(1575/383)

ERKEL AVE.

DATE SEP 14 2005

The attached survey plat has been reviewed by the undersigned and conditions shown thereby noted and accepted.

*J. M. Butz Jr.*  
*Jean-Louise Borders*

I, a Registered Professional Land Surveyor in the State of Texas, do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, the above plat is a true representation of an actual survey made on the ground under my supervision, to the local standard of care, and that I have located apparent easements, right-of-ways, and encroachments as of the 1st day of September 2005.

This the 12th day of September, 2005.  
 Field Notes also prepared this date.

J. M. Butz, Jr., R.P.L.S. No. 2024  
 JOB NO. 05-213

SCALE: 1" = 30'  
 SURVEY PLAT

BEING 0.502 acre of land, more or less, being comprised of Lot 1, Lot 2 and the south 1/2 of Lot 3, City Block 1038, of the Dibrell-Starcke Investment Company's Subdivision, City of Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas as recorded in Volume 45, Page 273 of the Deed Records of Guadalupe County, Texas and also being known as 308 Erkel Ave.



BUTZ  
 LAND  
 SURVEYING



3830 KUGMERTZ RD.  
 ST HEDWIG, TX 78182-9718

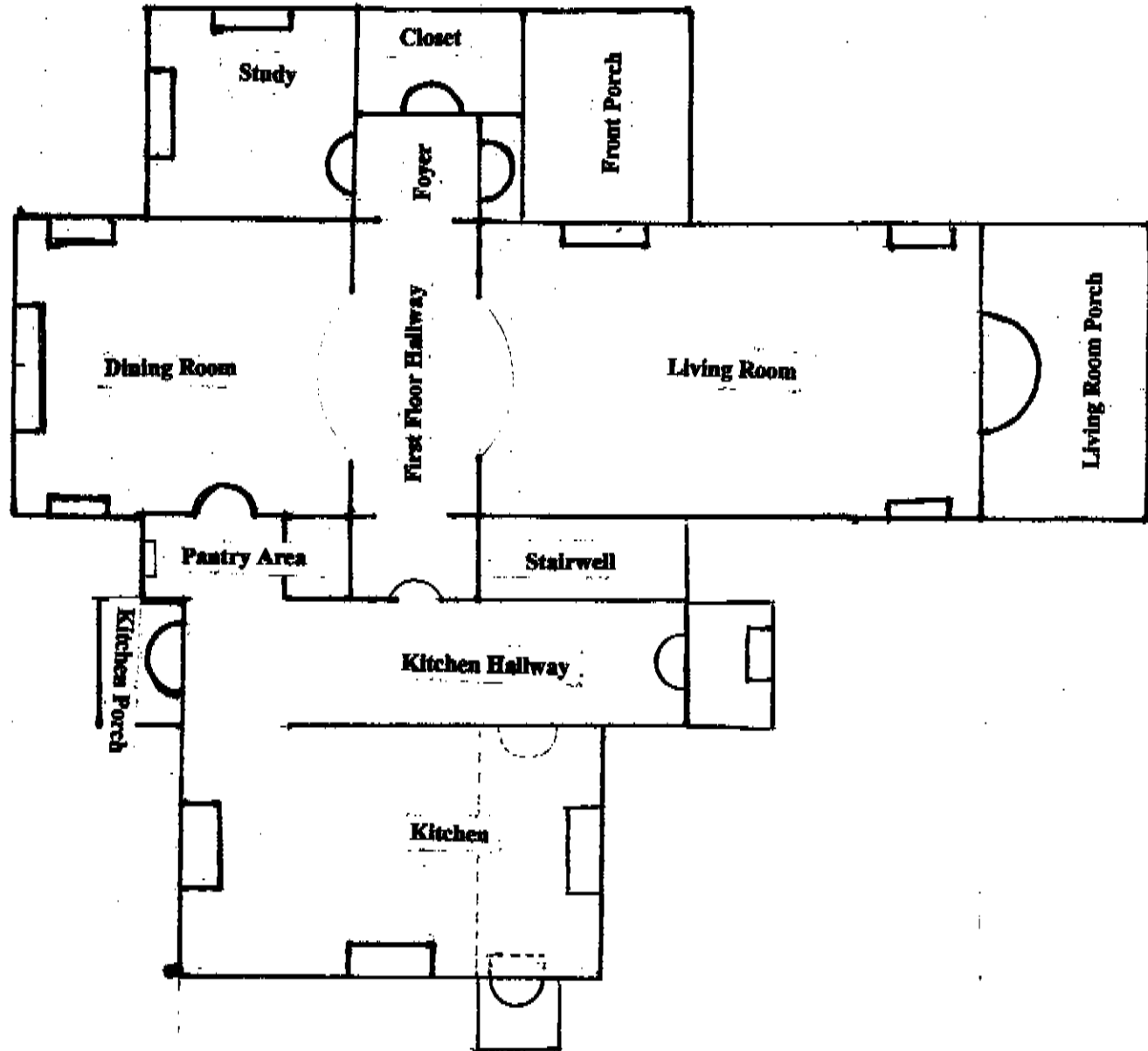
PHONE: 210-667-1389  
 FAX: 210-667-1334

DRAWN BY: R.C.C.

308 S. ~~ERKIN~~ AVENUE  
Seguin, Texas 78155

FIRST FLOOR

- Study**  
H 8.0' x W 9.7' x D 8.9'
- Closet**  
H 8.0' x W 5.5' x D 4.5'
- Foyer**  
H 8.0' x W 4.0' x D 4.7'
- Front Porch**  
H 0.6' x W 6.8' x D 9.6'
- Dining Room**  
H 8.5' x W 13.0' x D 14.0'
- Living Room**  
H 8.5' x W 22.5' x D 14'
- First Floor Hallway**  
H 8.5' x W 5.5' x D 15.5'
- Living Room Porch**  
H 0.7' x W 8.7' x D 15.0'
- Stairwell**  
W 10.3' x D 3.3'
- Stairwell Landing**  
W 3.5 x D 7.0'
- Pantry Area**  
H 8.5' x W 6.1' x D 3.8'
- Kitchen Hallway**  
H 8.5' x W 16.0' x D 3.3'
- Kitchen**  
H 8.5' x W 16.0' x D 3.3'
- Kitchen Porch**  
H 0.5' x W 3.1' x D 5.0'
- Half Bathroom**  
H 6.7' x W 4.5' x D 7.0'



Dotted lines show walls prior to renovation



SECOND FLOOR

308 S Erkel Avenue  
Seguin, Texas 78155

Guest Bedroom  
H 8.3' x W 13.0' x D 9.5'

Guest Bathroom  
H 8.3' x W 4.8' x D 7.8'

Guest Balcony  
W 5.0' x D 6.0'

Master Bedroom  
H 8.3' x W 13.1' x D 17.8'

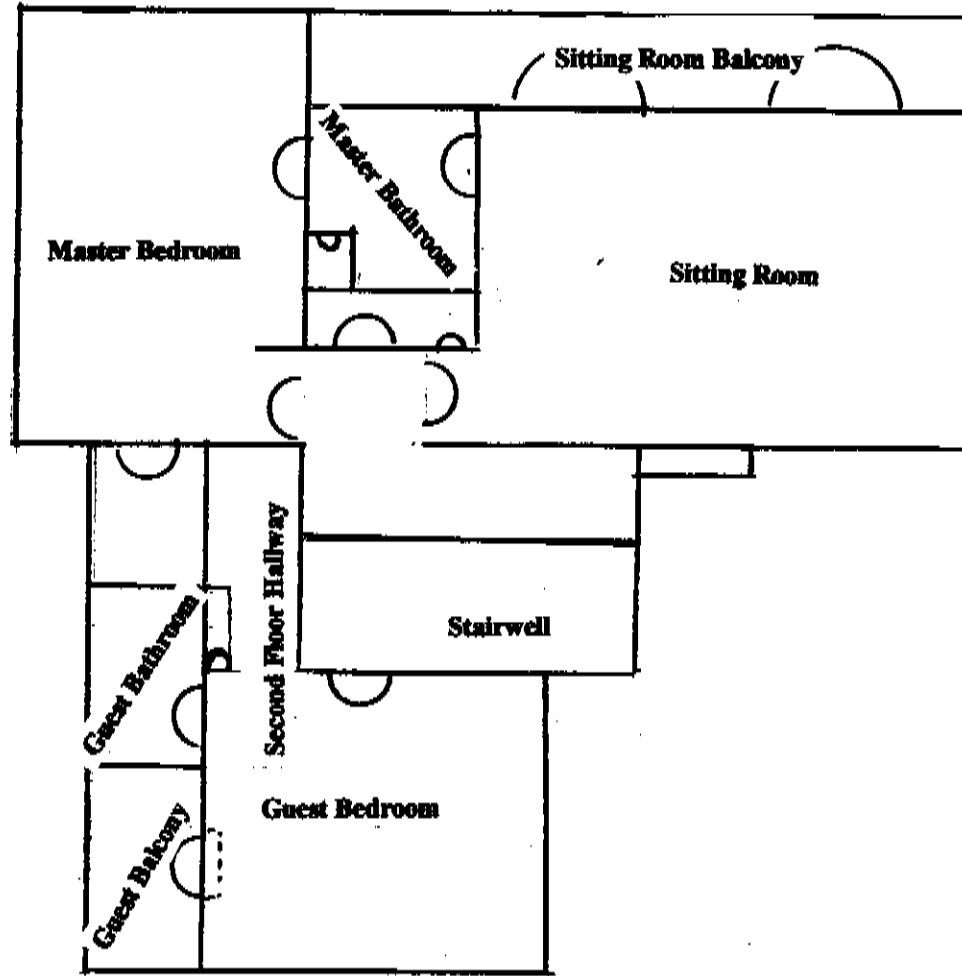
Master Bathroom  
H 8.3' x W 7.5' x D 7.8'

Sitting Room  
H 8.3' x W 20.5' x D 14.0'

Second Floor Hallway  
H 8.3' x W 5.0' x D 11.0'

Stairwell  
W 7.0' x D 3.5'

Sitting Room Balcony  
H 8.6' x W 3.5' x D 22.6'



**OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER  
STAFF EVALUATION FORM**

Job: 07GU01 Title: Hugo and Georgia Moe Gibson House

Type: RTHL Size: L Year: 2007 Codes: CN

Comments: Dr. Hugo Gibson (1894-1963) and Georgia Moe XX (1893-1973) came to Seguin in 1929 to join the staff of the newly accredited Texas Lutheran College, Hugo coming from a merger with Trinity College in Round Rock and Georgia Moe coming from Columbia University in New York City. Dr. Hugo Gibson was head of the foreign languages department and choir director at TLC. In the summer of 1932, Hugo Gibson and Georgia Moe married and Georgia became mother to a ten year old daughter, Lois. In 1934 Georgia gave birth to their son George Hugo, and the family including Hugo's mother moved into their newly built house on Erkel Avenue. Builder Edward Stricker designed the two-story frame house on a pier and beam foundation. The side gabled house has a second story balcony porch and two first floor entries. Decorative detailing includes lattice work, French doors, shuttered windows and oak and longleaf pine floors. The Gibson family was in the house until 1963.

Notes to marker writer:

Recommendation: Approve

Staff evaluator: Bob Brinkman

Date: 12/4/2013









