

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
JUNE 25, 2018  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2018-0258  
2624 METCALFE ROAD**

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**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1934 house.

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**ARCHITECTURE**

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One-story, rectangular-plan, side-gabled rock-veneered house with a partial-width inset porch; single and paired 1:1 fenestration; attached carport. The rock veneer on this house is composed of what appears to be creek and field stones laid in random patterns on the house walls.

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**RESEARCH**

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The history of this house is difficult to determine with complete accuracy, as it was in the county when it was built, and there is no documentary evidence of its construction. Further complicating matters is that two members of the Metcalfe family had homes in this neighborhood – Orin E. Metcalfe, and his son, Marlton O. Metcalfe. Staff has made the hypothesis that this house was the home of the son, Marlton O. Metcalfe, as the addresses in later city directories show him and his wife, Daisy, at this address, and the address for his father, Orin E. Metcalfe, at what appears to be a little further north. A visit to the site showed that there is an earlier, very modest, wood house at what could be the address of Orin E. Metcalfe, but at this point in the research and evaluation, it is not clear if the wood house was the home of Orin Metcalfe.

Assuming that staff's hypothesis is true, this was the home of Marlton O. Metcalfe and his wife Daisy. They lived here from what appears to be the construction date of ca. 1934, for the rest of their lives. Marlton O. Metcalfe was the Travis County surveyor, and was also a partner in an engineering firm with his father, Orin E. Metcalfe, who served as the city engineer for many years in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and who was responsible for what would be today considered the realm of public works, especially the laying out and paving of city streets, among other responsibilities. Before moving out to this site on the outskirts of town in the mid-1930s, Marlton O. Metcalfe and his wife lived in the home of his parents, Orin and Clara Metcalfe, at 1204 Travis Heights Boulevard. Father and son had Metcalfe Engineering Company for many years after Orin E. Metcalfe retired from his position as city engineer around the same time he and his son moved out to this site in the mid-1930s, and went to work for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Marlton O. Metcalfe was a registered public surveyor, and the official surveyor for Travis County, a very important role in the development of the city and county at that time, from 1939 to 1978, then devoted himself full-time to his engineering firm. His son, Marlton O. Metcalfe, Jr., was also associated with the family engineering firm, and continued both the business and his father's role as county surveyor after the elder Marlton Metcalfe retired. Marlton O. Metcalfe lived in this house until his death in 1985; his widow, Daisy Metcalfe, lived here until her death in 1997.

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**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The house is beyond the bounds of any City survey to date.

Staff has evaluated this house for designation as a historic landmark and has determined that the house may meet the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code, but recognizes that the house is in very poor condition:

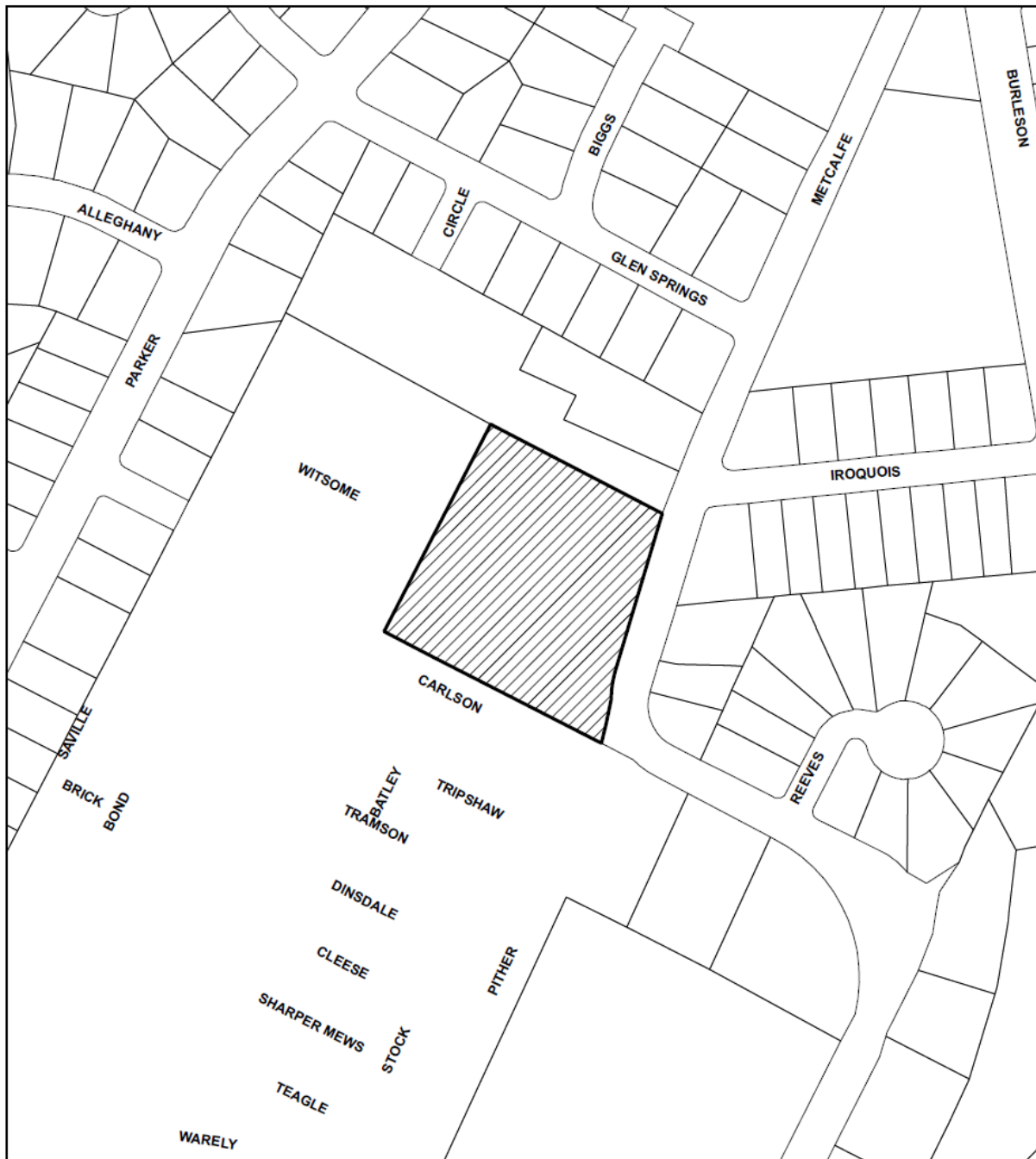
- a. **Architecture.** While exhibiting a simple form, this house is distinguished by its stone walls, which evidence a particular style of construction, requiring layering and pressing the stones into mortar spread on a concrete footer. Most stone-veneer houses in Austin have cut-stone walls utilizing larger pieces of rock in a random mosaic pattern on the walls, and are generally constructed with native sandstone or limestone. This house, by comparison, uses the entire rock, a much more unusual technique in central Texas.
- b. **Historical association.** The house was owned and occupied by Marlton and Daisy Metcalfe from the time of its construction in the mid-1930s, until they passed away, in 1985 and 1997 respectively. Marlton Metcalfe held the position of county surveyor from 1939 to 1978, as well as serving as a principal in his family's engineering firm. His father, Orin E. Metcalfe, appears to have more significance to the history of development in the city in his long-time role as city engineer in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- c. **Archaeology.** The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
- e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**




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Encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of this house to the greatest extent possible, including a postponement to July 23, 2018 to fully evaluate the condition of the house and its potential for preservation and rehabilitation. The house is an architectural curiosity with its rock construction, and has possible historical significance to its builder and long-time owner, Marlton O. Metcalfe, the county surveyor. If the Commission decides to release the permit, then staff recommends the completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations (after the debris is cleared away), a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center.

## LOCATION MAP



1" = 196'

-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

## NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2018-0258  
 LOCATION: 2624 Metcalfe Road



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

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

2624 Metcalfe Road  
ca. 1934









## OCCUPANCY HISTORY 2624 Metcalfe Road

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
By City Historic Preservation Office  
June, 2018

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|---------|---|
| 1992    | Daisy D. Metcalfe, owner<br>No occupation listed<br>Also listed is Marlton O. Metcalfe, Jr., the president of Metcalfe & Sanders, engineers, 4800 S. Congress Avenue.   |
| 1985-86 | Marlton O. and Daisy Metcalfe, owners<br>Director, Metcalfe Engineering, 4800 S. Congress Avenue.   |
| 1981    | Marlton O. and Daisy D. Metcalfe, owners<br>Director, Metcalfe Engineering, registered professional engineer, registered public surveyor; Marlton O. Metcalfe, Jr., Travis County Surveyor, 4800 S. Congress Avenue.                |
| 1977    | Marlton O. and Daisy D. Metcalfe, owners<br>Director, Metcalfe Engineering, registered professional engineer, registered public surveyor; Marlton O. Metcalfe, Jr., Travis County Surveyor, and president, 4800 S. Congress Avenue. |
| 1973    | Marlton O. and Daisy Metcalfe, owners<br>Proprietor (with Orin E. Metcalfe), Metcalfe Engineering, 1710 Eva Street.<br>NOTE: Orin E. Metcalfe lived at 2500 Metcalfe Road.<br>NOTE: The house is listed as 2604 Metcalfe Road.      |
| 1968    | Marlton O. and Daisy Metcalfe, owners   |

Travis County Surveyor, 510 Travis County Court House.

NOTE: Orin E. Metcalfe was the proprietor of Metcalfe Engineering, civil engineers and land surveyors, 1710 Eva Street. He lived at 2500 Metcalfe Road.

- 1965 Marlton O. and Daisy Metcalfe, owners  
Proprietor (with Orin E. Metcalfe), Metcalfe Engineering, 1710 Eva Street.
- 1962 Marlton O. and Daisy Metcalfe, owners  
Proprietor (with Orin E. Metcalfe), Metcalfe Engineering, 1710 Eva Street.  
NOTE: The house is listed as being on Burleson Road.
- 1959 Marlton O. and Daisy Metcalfe, owners  
County Surveyor, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Travis County Court House  
NOTE: The house is listed as being on Burleson Road.  
NOTE: Orin and Dorothy Metcalfe are not listed in the directory.
- 1955 Marlton O. and Daisy Metcalfe, owners  
Proprietor (with Orin E. Metcalfe), Metcalfe Engineering, 1011 Guadalupe Street, and Travis County Surveyor.  
NOTE: The address of the house is listed as being on Route 2, Box 759.  
NOTE: Orin E. Metcalfe was serving as the assistant county surveyor. He and Clara lived on Route 2, Box 757.
- 1953 Marlton O. and Daisy Metcalfe, owners  
County surveyor and proprietor (with Orin E. Metcalfe), Metcalfe Engineering, 1011 Guadalupe Street.  
NOTE: Orin E. Metcalfe is listed as the assistant county surveyor.  
NOTE: The address of the house is listed as being Route 2, Burleson Road.  
Orin E. and Clara Metcalfe also lived on Route 2, Burleson Road.
- 1952 Marlton O. and Daisy D. Metcalfe, owners  
County surveyor, and proprietor (with Orin E. Metcalfe), Metcalfe Engineering, 1011 Guadalupe Street.  
NOTE: The address of the house is listed as being Route 2, Burleson Road.  
Orin E. and Clara Metcalfe also had the same address.
- 1949 Marlton O. and Daisy D. Metcalfe, owners  
County surveyor, and proprietor (with Orin E. Metcalfe), Metcalfe Engineering, 1011 Guadalupe Street.  
NOTE: The address of the house is Burleson Road.
- 1947 Marlton O. and Daisy D. Metcalfe, owners  
County surveyor, and proprietor (with Orin E. Metcalfe), Metcalfe Engineering, 1-2 Pope Building, 135 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.
- 1942 Marlton O. and Daisy D. Metcalfe, owners  
County surveyor, and proprietor (with Orin E. Metcalfe), Metcalfe Engineering, 1-2 Pope Building, 135 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.  
NOTE: The address of the house is the west side of Burleson Road, 7 houses south of the city limit.
- 1940 Marlton O. and Daisy D. Metcalfe, owners  
Proprietor (with Orin E. Metcalfe), Metcalfe Engineering, civil engineers and surveyors, 1-2 Pope Building, 135 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.



NOTE: The address of the house is the west side of Burleson Road, 7 houses south of the city limit.

NOTE: Orin E. and Clara Metcalfe lived on the west side of Burleson Road, 2 houses south of the city limit. He was a civil engineer with offices at 422 Littlefield Building.

- 1937      Marlton O. and Daisy D. Metcalfe, owners  
 Proprietor, Metcalfe Engineering, civil engineers and surveyors, 1-2 Pope Building, 135 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.  
 NOTE: The address of the house is the west side of Burleson Road, 7 houses south of the city limit.  
 NOTE: Orin E. and Clara Metcalf are listed on the west side of Burleson Road, 6 houses south of the city limit. He was an engineer with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
- 1935      Marlton O. and Daisy Dell Metcalfe, owners  
 Proprietor (with Orin E. Metcalfe), Metcalfe Engineering and Contracting Company, engineers, surveyors, ad contractors, 1-2 Pope Building, 135 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Marlton O. Metcalfe is also listed as a land surveyor, lot subdivision, and country surveys.  
 NOTE: The address of the house is the west side of Burleson Road, 7 houses southeast of the city limits. Orin E. and Clara M. Metcalfe are listed on the west side of Burleson Road, 6 houses southeast of the city limits.
- 1932-33      The address is not listed in the directory.  
 NOTE: Marlton O. and Daisy Dell Metcalfe are listed at 1204 Travis Heights Boulevard, the home of his parents, Orin E. and Clara Metcalfe. Marlton O. Metcalfe was a land surveyor, lot subdivisions, and country surveys. His father, Orin E. Metcalfe, was the city engineer.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

### **Marlton O. and Daisy Dell Metcalfe (ca. 1934 – ca. 1997)**

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Marlton O. and Daisy Metcalfe as the owners of a house on Route 6 in Travis County; the house was worth \$500. Marlton O. Metcalfe was 32, had been born in Texas, and was a surveyor in private practice. Daisy Metcalfe was 30, had been born in Texas, and had no occupation listed. They had a son, Marlton, Jr., 6, who had been born in Texas.

Marlton O. Metcalfe appears in the 1930 U.S. Census as the 22-year old son of Orin E. and Clara E. Metcalfe, who owned their home at 1204 Travis Heights Boulevard. Marlton was the oldest of the Metcalfes' 5 children. He was born in Texas and was a land surveyor. His father, Orin E. Metcalfe, 45, was born in Massachusetts to English-born parents, and was the city engineer. His mother, Clara E. Metcalfe, 43, had been born in Texas and had no occupation listed. Marlton was the only one of the Metcalfe children with an occupation listed in the census report.



# MARLTON O. METCALFE

## CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY SURVEYOR

Eleven years of continuous local land surveying experience and a large library of private maps and records.

YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT APPRECIATED

(Pol. Adv.)

Advertisement for the election of Marlton O. Metcalfe to be County Surveyor  
Austin Statesman, July 23, 1938

### COUNTY SURVEYOR

**Marlton O. Metcalfe Sr., 67,**  
has served as county surveyor  
since 1939. He is running  
unopposed for the post.

Metcalfe attended Austin  
grammar schools and the  
Nixon-Clay Commercial  
College from 1926 to 1927.

He is the owner of Metcalfe  
Engineering Co. and is a  
member of the Central  
Christian Church.

*He is the father of one son.*

Short biography of Marlton O. Metcalfe in the slate of candidates for county offices  
Austin American-Statesman, October 11, 1974

**METCALFE  
ENGINEERING CO.**

*"Private survey data—Assembled  
Indexed and Filed for 48 years."*

**Registered  
Professional Engineers**

**MARLTON O. METCALFE  
Travis County Surveyor**

**ORIN E. METCALFE  
Licensed Land Surveyor**

**1011 GUADALUPE  
opposite the Courthouse  
Phone 2-8127**

Advertisement for Metcalfe Engineering Company  
Austin American-Statesman, February 22, 1953

**ORIN EDWARD METCALFE**

Orin Edward Metcalfe, age 89, 2606 Metcalfe Road died Saturday, June 8. Austin resident 62 years, formerly of Worcester, Mass. Member of Central Christian Church. Member of Texas and National Society of Professional Engineers, also Charter member of Texas Assn's of Surveyors. Served 5 years as Hays County Surveyor in San Marcos. Served as Surveyor of Lake Austin, and was Travis County Engineer for five years. He established his private practice in Austin in 1918. He then became City Engineer and served in this capacity until 1932. He also served as right-of-way engineer for the L.C.R.A.'s new Lake Travis. He retired in 1942.

Survivors: Two daughters, Mrs. George (Sue) Sanders, Austin; Mrs. Nolen (Loitney) Young, Austin; three sons, Marlton O. Metcalfe, Austin; Tracey Metcalfe, Sonora, and Charlie B. Metcalfe, Denver, Colo; one brother, Alvin R. Metcalfe, Arlington, Vermont; ten grandchildren; several great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Services 10:00 A.M. Tuesday, June 11, Chapel of Wilke-Clay Funeral Home. Rev. Walter Allen, Associate pastor of Central Christian Church officiating. Burial Austin Memorial Park Tuesday, June 11. Pallbearers: Grandsons.

Contributions. Organ Fund, Central Christian Church, 1110 Guadalupe.

Obituary of Marlton Metcalfe's father, Orin E. Metcalfe, detailing the Metcalfes' business history  
Austin American-Statesman, June 10, 1974

# An election shoo-in

## County surveyor Metcalfe takes over his father's post

By JOHN SUTTON  
American Statesman Staff

Marlton O. Metcalfe Jr., Travis County surveyor-elect, is the kind of elected official a taxpayer can love.

He ran for a post that doesn't have a salary, no budget or county office, and he probably will never insult you.

Even voting for him in the recent election was easy because his is practically the same name that's been in that position on the ballot since 1939. He succeeds his father in the post that M.O. Metcalfe Sr. ran a pretty hot contest for 39 years ago.

Despite the absence of an opponent, the younger Metcalfe's election wasn't without its challenges.

Election officials at first thought he was running against his father, and when they found out he wasn't, they left his name off the ballot altogether.

It was put back on the ballot in time for the election, although not on the sample ballot, but Metcalfe Jr. polled 53,753 votes — one of the top vote getters in Travis County, by the way.

Although there's a batch of statutory duties outlined for the county surveyor, there's not really too much for him to do the way things are set up, says Metcalfe. He has a phone line set up in his private office that is listed in the county list-

ings, but most of the calls are from people who didn't know who to call, he says.

"The office was originally set up to survey and patent public lands, but it was never really funded in this state, and now there's so little unpatented land.

But in some states, like Mississippi, it's on the same level as the county engineer, or the sheriff, with deputies, and they do all the surveying and engineering work.

"Just speaking off the cuff, I'd say it should be specialized or abolished, but it's a constitutional office with a lot of duties.

"In the old days people didn't consider a survey a valid one unless it was done by the county surveyor." Other surveyors were not required to be licensed by the state until 1953, he says.

The most important duties of the office have to do with establishing county boundaries — for tax purposes, and certifying unpatented, or state-owned land. Only a county surveyor can do either.

There's not much unpatented land in Travis County, but every once in a while a little slice will be discovered between a couple of parcels of land where the boundaries didn't quite meet, says Metcalfe. In the old days, when state acreage

was going for about \$1 an acre, that didn't make so much difference, he says, but with land prices what they are now, an accurate survey is more important.

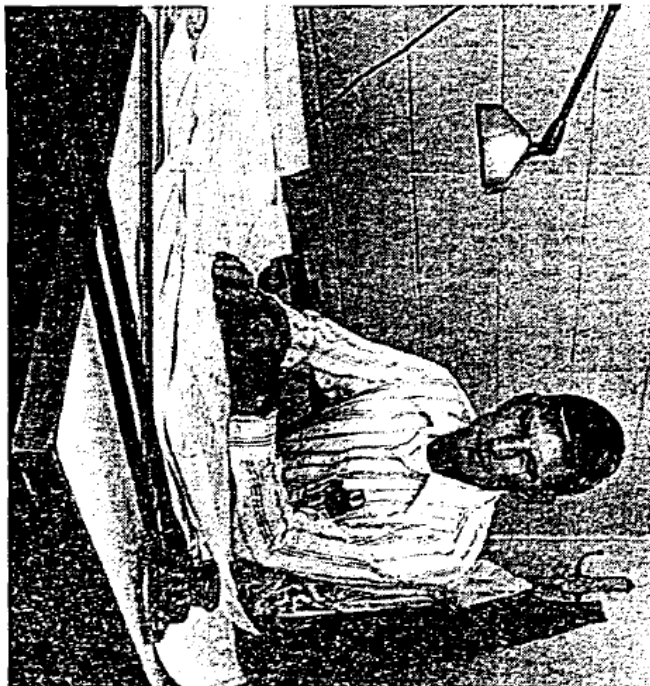
Establishment of county boundaries has come several times during his father's term of office, says Metcalfe.

The county surveyor was used in past years to determine for tax purposes whether Texas history claims for in Travis or Williamson County. As it turned out, the county line ran right down the middle of the county. It's big buildings, so the counties had to split the revenue, says Metcalfe.

When Metcalfe Sr. ran for the job in 1939 he went around to every little precinct meeting and towns surrounding Austin, recalls his sister, Sue Sanders, who works with the Metcalfes and her son in the family Metcalfe Engineering Company.

Metcalfe Sr. had one other contested race during his nearly 40 years of elected office. His son had no opponent in either the primary or general election, so no campaigning was necessary.

But it's not anything like the father just handed the job over to son when he got tired of it. "It's something I've been thinking about a long time," says Metcalfe Jr.



Metcalfe runs what little county business he has from own office. Elected job unsalaried.

Sunday, November 19, 1978

Austin American Statesman

B9

Story on Marlton O. Metcalfe, Jr. taking over his father's surveying position  
Austin American-Statesman, November 19, 1978





**M.O. Metcalfe, Sr.**

M.O. Metcalfe, Sr., age 78, of 2624 Metcalfe Road passed away Thursday in Aransas Pass after a brief illness.

He was born August 18, 1907, in San Marcos, Texas.

Mr. Metcalfe was a registered professional Engineer, a registered Public Surveyor, and a principal in the firm Metcalfe Engineering Company since 1926. He served as County Surveyor of Travis County from 1938 through 1978.

Mr. Metcalfe was a member of Central Christian Church, Texas Society of Professional Engineers, Professional Engineers in Private Practice and a charter member of the Texas Surveyors Association.

Mr. Metcalfe was preceded in death by his father and mother, Orin E. and Clara Emily Metcalfe; and a sister, Lottney C. Young.

Survivors include his wife, Daisy

Dell Fulkas Metcalfe, son, Orin Metcalfe, and his wife, Dorothy, two grandsons, Tim Metcalfe and Robert Metcalfe; one granddaughter, Laverne Cox; three great-grandchildren, all of Austin. He is also survived by his sister, Mrs. Susie Metcalfe Sanders, Austin; and brother, William Tracey Metcalfe, Ft. Davis, and Charles B. Metcalfe, Estes Park, Colorado.

Funeral services are 2:00 PM, Sunday, Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home, Chapel of the Bells. Burial will follow in Austin Memorial Park.

Services under the direction of Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home.

Obituary of Marlton O. Metcalfe  
Austin American-Statesman, September 21, 1985

## **Daisy Metcalfe**

Daisy Metcalfe, age 88, of Austin, died Tuesday, January 7, 1997. Mrs. Metcalfe was a registered nurse, Brackenridge Nursing School, Class of 1931. She was also a private duty nurse in the city of Austin area.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Marlton O. Metcalfe.

Survivors include her son, Orin Metcalfe Jr., Austin; grandsons, Timothy E. Metcalfe and wife, Deanna, Lusby, Maryland, and Robert C. Metcalfe and wife, Shelley, Austin; granddaughter, Laverne Metcalfe Hernandez and husband, Michael, Austin; three great-granddaughters; one great-grandson; sister, Rose Gill, Round Rock; and numerous relatives in the Austin area.

Visitation will be Thursday 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Friday, Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home with Pastor Sue White officiating. Burial will follow in Austin Memorial Park.

Pallbearers will be Tim Metcalfe, Robert Metcalfe, Michael Hernandez, Curtis Sanders, Robert Sanders, and Jeff Gill.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice. Services under the direction of Wilke-Amey-Clay Funeral Home, 2620 S. Congress, 442-1446.

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Obituary of Daisy Metcalfe  
Austin American-Statesman, January 9, 1997