

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 25, 2019
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2019-0060
2403 TOWER DRIVE**

PROPOSAL

Alter roofline of primary façade and construct second-story addition to a ca. 1941 house; enclose carport.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan building capped with a cross-gabled roof; stone masonry cladding; 1:1 vinyl-sash windows.

RESEARCH

The house was constructed for J. Neils and Wanda Thompson, who lived in the house from 1941 until at least 1955. J. Neils was a UT engineering professor who served as the first director of the Balcones Research Center (now the J. J. Pickle Research Campus), which has been credited as spurring Austin's role as a high-tech center. Thompson was extraordinarily active in research, serving on numerous state and national committees and widely professionally recognized. He also was a leader in local economic development, with leadership in the Austin Chamber of Commerce and active championing of research industries in Austin. Finally, he was "a major force in college athletics" as a member of the UT Athletic Council, a representative to the Southwest Conference, and Council member and eventually president of the NCAA. Though his economic development and athletic accomplishments were concentrated in the 1960s and 1970s, Thompson spent his early career, beginning with his hiring at UT and including the notable achievement of founding the Balcones Research Center, living in 2403 Tower Drive.

Rodney Desmond and Jayne Kidd were the only other long-term occupants during the historic period; they lived there from around 1959 until about 1968. Rodney worked as the district manager for Aetna Life Insurance and served on the Austin School Board.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The project includes six parts:

1. Repairs to rear exterior walls and roof damaged by fire.
2. Alteration of the front-gabled roof to extend over the central and right structural bays, covering the expanded front porch, and addition of a small gabled portico over the front door. Both roofs will be supported by wood columns.
3. Replacement of 1:1 vinyl-sash windows with multi-lite vinyl-sash windows.
4. Enclosure of the carport and installation of an awning garage door.
5. Construction of a second-floor addition over the garage clad in wood siding to match existing, capped by a front-gabled roof, and features 1:1 and 2:2 vinyl-sash windows. It is set back approximately 34 feet from the front wall of the house.
6. Replacement of the front porch with a larger porch.

STAFF COMMENTS

The building does not appear to meet the criteria for designation as a historic landmark.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is at least 50 years old, having been constructed around 1941.
- 2) The building appears to retain a high degree of integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation (City of Austin Land Development Code, Section 25-2-352). The property may demonstrate significance according to one criterion: historical association.
 - a. **Architecture.** The house was designed in the Minimal Traditional style. It does not appear to possess architectural distinction.
 - b. **Historical association.** J. Neils and Wanda Thompson lived in the house for at least 15 years, starting when J. Neil was hired as a professor at UT and extending through the founding of the Balcones Research Center (now the J. J. Pickle Research Campus). There appear to be significant historical associations, though the J. J. Pickle Research Campus has more significant associations with Thompson's research career. The campus includes a building dedicated to Thompson, the J. Neils Thompson Commons Building.



J. Neils Thompson Commons Building. Credit: University of Texas.

- c. **Archaeology.** The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The property does not appear to have a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, a neighborhood, or a particular 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

Approve the partial demolition application, subject to completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package. Encourage the applicant to retain the original front roofline to better preserve the house's historic integrity.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2019-0060
LOCATION: 2403 TOWER DRIVE



1" = 333'

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.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Photos



Primary (north) façade and west elevation of 2403 Tower Drive.



West elevation and carport proposed to be enclosed.

Occupancy History

Completed by Historic Preservation Office staff
February 2019

- 1941 Address not listed
- 1944-55 J. Neils and Wanda Thompson, owners
Professor, UT (1944, 1952); associate professor, UT (1949); director, structural mechanics research, UT (1955)
- 1959-68 R. (Rodney) Desmond and Jayne D. Kidd, owners
District manager, Aetna Life Insurance (1959, 1962); regional superintendent, American Found Life Insurance (1965); sale representative, Aetna Life Insurance (1968)
- 1973 Richard Dalton, owner
No occupation listed
- 1977 Russell E. and Ann Benton, owners
Lawyer, no employer listed
- 1986 Scott Sayers, owner
No occupation listed
- 1992 Scott P. Sayers Jr. and Julie F. Sayers, owners
Scott worked as the president of Texas State Directory (1800 Nueces); Julie worked as editor at the same company.

Background Research

J. (Jesse) Neils Thompson was born in 1912 in Canyon, Texas, to Pat and Winnie Thompson. Pat worked as a plumber. By 1930, the family was living in Bay City, where Pat sold automobiles. Thompson attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he played football. He remained in Austin after college and began working for the Texas Highway Department in 1935. In 1941, he joined the UT faculty as a professor of civil engineering.

In 1945-46, Thompson and colleague Prof. C. Read Granberry led the effort to lease a federally owned 406-acre magnesium plant (declared surplus after World War II), with the intent to “extend and develop the research function of the University for the benefit of the public.” The property was purchased in 1949 with Congressman Lyndon B. Johnson’s help. Originally called the Off-Campus Research Center, the site became the Balcones Research Center in 1953 and the J. J. Pickle Research Campus in 1994. Thompson was the first director of the Center, a role he held for 31 years as research facilities expanded tremendously. “I believe the people of Texas will eventually realize the importance of research at the University of Texas,” he concluded a 1951 letter to the editor that argued for a first-class research institution. Thompson also directed the Structural Mechanics Research Lab, one of 27 research laboratories then in the Center. The Austin History Center website notes that many people credit the Balcones Research Center with launching Austin’s identity as a center for high-tech industry, as many highly trained faculty and graduate students who worked at the Center went on to found or work at electronics and research companies.

Thompson paid keen attention to the city's economic development, serving as vice president of the Austin Chamber of Commerce in the early 1960s and championing additional research industry. In this role, he headed the Chamber's economic development department. "With a new industrial brochure that has been acclaimed the best in the U.S., with an active Economic Development Council of 70 businessmen, with the addition of a half dozen new industries during the past year, and with the growth of research organizations and instrument manufacturers already here, Austin is realizing a significant and solid economic growth," Thompson told *The Austin American* in 1961. The same year, he was appointed director of the City National Bank of Austin. The Chamber of Commerce recognized him with one of its first Economic Development Awards in 1970 for his longtime service and contributions. By 1973, he was serving as president of the Chamber.

Thompson was widely professionally recognized, serving as president of the local, state, and national Society of Professional Engineers and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Concrete Institute, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. In the early 1950s he served as state coordinator for engineering services in the State Defense and Disaster Relief Division, which planned how to use Texas's engineering resources against a potential enemy attack or natural disaster. In 1960, the Texas Society of Professional Engineers named him "Engineer of the Year." In 1957 and 1968, Thompson contributed to technical investigations of workforce housing, first as a member of a National Academy of Sciences committee for the Federal Housing Administration and later as chairman of the National Research Council's Building Research Advisory Board, which advised the Department of Housing and Urban Development on advanced technology for low-income housing.

In addition to his research leadership, Thompson was "a major force in college athletics," according to the *Austin American-Statesman*. He served on the UT Athletic Council for 24 years, including as chair, and was instrumental in expanding Memorial Stadium and constructing the Frank C. Erwin, Jr. Special Events Center (Palmer Auditorium). He also represented UT on the Southwest Conference and acted as vice president of the conference. In 1977, he was elected president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) after a stint on the NCAA Council, including at least one term as vice president. When he assumed the presidency, the NCAA faced pressing questions around whether athletic "superpower" colleges could set their own policies, or whether other schools—via voting membership in the NCAA—could weigh in, as well as how to implement Title IX. Throughout his career with college athletics, Thompson insisted on integrity and helped to jumpstart tougher enforcement against cheating.

Thompson had extraordinary energy to fulfill his academic, research, athletic, economic development, and various civic duties. A 1973 *Austin Statesman* article called him "Austin's go-between for both 'town and gown' society." He continued teaching and consulting between his retirement in 1983 and his death in 1998 in Austin. See following pages for relevant news articles and an obituary.

Wanda Thompson (nee Stephens) was born in 1924 in Timpson, Texas. She moved to Austin to work at the State Highway Department, where she met J. Neils Thompson. The couple married in 1940 in Travis County and had one child. Wanda Thompson died in 2005 in Austin. Her obituary credits her as being "instrumental in the progress of the University [of Texas] through involvement in intercollegiate athletics, Balcones Research Center and the Department of Engineering," along with her husband (see following pages).

Rodney Desmond Kidd was born in 1927 in Georgetown to James Rodney Kidd and Von Lunsford. The family moved to Austin in 1938, and Kidd graduated from Austin High School and UT Austin. Kidd enlisted in the Navy in 1944 and was released in 1946. He worked as an educator and coach in Beaumont schools, moving to Austin by 1954 to teach and coach at McCallum High School. He later worked for Aetna Life Insurance and American Founders Life Insurance. Kidd was elected to the Austin School Board in 1966. R. Desmond Kidd died in 1987 or, more likely, 2004 in Travis County. See following pages for relevant news articles.

Jayne Frances Darsey Kidd was likely born in 1932 and grew up in Austin. She attended Ward Belmont Junior College and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, later working at the American Fore Insurance Group as a secretary. She married Rodney Kidd in November 1955 in Austin in what *The Austin American* called "one of the first prominent weddings of the holiday season." The couple had three children. Jayne Kidd worked as a realtor associate in the 1970s. Her date of death is unknown. See following pages for newspaper advertisement.

Joistile Beam Cuts Texas Building Cost

A joistile beam, developed at the University of Texas, is cutting building costs in the Southwest, Professor J. Nells Thompson announced.

Made in a "U" shape from reinforced concrete and precast tile, joistile beams are used in making "T" beams for roof and floor systems of concrete-tile brick structures, popular in this section of the nation.

Such construction has been used more and more in the last 10 years for residential, school and light commercial buildings because it is both fireproof and economical.

"In the Austin area, joistile costs 10 to 20 cents less per square foot than corresponding wood construction, and 40 to 50 cents less than solid concrete," Professor Thompson, who directed the research, said.

In making floors and roofs, joistile beams may be installed by unskilled labor because no centering or form work, essential in ordinary concrete construction, is needed.

The precast joists, with "U" walls pointing upward, are spaced across a given area. Then a corresponding set, with "U" wall downward, is fitted into the spaces to form smooth upper and lower surfaces. Concrete topping is placed over the beams.

Thompson reports interest in joistile is widespread. He has received inquiries about it from Monterrey, Mexico; San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Johannesburg, South Africa.

Research on the construction device was carried on in civil engineering laboratories on the University's main campus and at its off-campus research center near Austin.

Over five years of load tests and construction analyses are behind the University's development of joistile. Civil engineering researchers are investigating all types of concrete-tile construction as a service to Texans.

"Joistile beam cuts Texas building cost," *The Austin Statesman*, 3/29/1950.

To the Editor:

Very few people realize the importance of research to an institution of higher learning. In order to keep abreast of developments and in order to educate the scientists of tomorrow, it is necessary that institutions such as ours be aggressively participating in research.

It is in the research laboratory that our scientists are trained and developed and it is in the research laboratory that our scientists receive perpetual enthusiasm to delve into the realms of the unknown.

Another factor that demonstrates the necessity for a research program is that it is only through such programs that we are able to attract the services of capable scientists of our time, men well fitted to impart to our youth the spark and enthusiasm to learn. It is not necessary that we have an Einstein among us. As I look about the University in the physical science departments and in the engineering departments, I find many capable scientists and engineers who are doing a wonderful work in creating an enthusiasm to learn among our students.

The people of Texas deserve to have an institution that will give

these opportunities to its sons and daughters. Such opportunities should not be reserved only to those who live in the East and West where institutions exist and operate under a program of research that budgetarily would seem staggering to us here at the University.

My motivation in first helping the University acquire and more recently in assisting in the development of the Magnesium Plant into a research center has been that one of these days the realization would develop among the people of Texas that we need to have an educational institution on a par with those of the East and West and that we would have available the facilities that would make such an institution possible.

It is true that we have done a fair job in utilizing the old Magnesium Plant in fixing it up for a research center, but the possibilities and the potential have only been scratched. I believe the people of Texas will eventually realize the importance of research at the University of Texas.

J. NEILS THOMPSON,
Director.
University of Texas
Off Campus.
Research Center.

"Important research" letter to the editor, The Austin American, 5/13/1951.

Off Campus UT Research Persues War Trend

Seven new national defense research projects, most of them secret, have been added to the program of The University of Texas' Off-Campus Research Center in the last six months, J. Neils Thompson, director, announced Saturday.

The projects, undertaken at the request of the Department of Defense, have required the installation of five new laboratories, bringing the number now in operation to 19, of which 15 are performing defense research, Thompson said in his third semi-annual report to the Federal Security

THE NEW PROJECTS, listed by laboratories in which they are being carried out, are:

1. Primate laboratory. USAF School of Aviation Medicine, is concerned with behavioral studies of monkeys. Two dozen of the animals were shipped to the laboratory from New York last week and research will begin immediately. The University's Department of Psychology is cooperating. Dr. Syl-

van J. Kaplan of the School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field, is technical director. Dr. Karl M. Dallenbach, head of the University's psychology department, is project director. The large new laboratory has been completed.

2. Civil engineering research laboratory, directed by Thompson, a member of the civil engineering faculty, is performing research under two Navy contracts on precast reinforced concrete construction. The Navy is interested because precast units have many advantages in the development of advance bases. This is a new laboratory, formed to expedite this research by consolidating the structures and materials engineering laboratories which Thompson also directed.

3. Combustion kinetics research laboratory, also a new unit, is carrying out basic combustion studies for the Office of Air Research. Dr. R. C. Anderson of the chemistry department is director.

4. Spectroscopy laboratory, Dr.

G. H. Ayres, director, is making analyses of platinum group metals for the Atomic Energy Commission.

5. Nuclear physics research laboratory, in which considerable progress has been made in the installation of a Van de Graff electrostatic generator, or "atom smasher," is now working on its first research project. In its dark room it is developing nuclear emulsions used in performance of a basic research contract between the physics department and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Dr. Emmett Hudspeth is director.

6. The electrical engineering research laboratory, which already occupies two large buildings, now has added a third. It was needed to carry out certain high priority research for the Navy's bureau of ordnance. Dr. A. W. Stratton is director.

The corrosion research laboratory, inactive for over a year, has been reactivated, Thompson said. Negotiations for an army research contract are about completed, he said. Details were not given. Dr. Norman Hackerman of the chemistry department will be in charge.

THE EIGHT OTHER laboratories engaged in defense research are high mach number supersonic wind tunnel, engineering mechanics laboratory, well sample and core library, US geological survey laboratory, mineral technology laboratory, military physics research laboratory, engines research laboratory, and petroleum engineering oil well core depository.

Laboratories not concerned with national defense are devoted to sanitary engineering, vertebrate paleontology, ceramics and surveying.

Thompson's report was made in fulfillment of a requirement of the contract by which the University obtained title to the Research Center's buildings and grounds after they had been declared surplus following World War II. During the war the site was occupied by a magnesium plant.

"Off campus UT research persues [sic] war trend," The Austin American, 7/29/1951.

Building Boom Reported in Progress At U of T's Off-Campus Research Center

A "building boom" is in progress at the University of Texas' Off-Campus Research Center, Professor J. Neils Thompson, director, reports.

The construction program, largest at the Research Center since the University occupied the proper-

ty six years ago, is the result of expansion of several national defense research projects, and the addition of other similar projects, Thompson said in his semi-annual report to the Federal Security Agency.

Six laboratories currently are being provided additional space. They include the Aeromechanics, Engineering Mechanics, Military Physics, Civil Engineering, and Sanitary Engineering research laboratories. The sixth cannot be described for security reasons, Thompson said.

ALL OF THE UNIVERSITY'S wind tunnels, used in guided missile research, will be housed in the Aeromechanics Laboratory. A high Mach number supersonic wind tunnel has been in use at the Research center for a number of years. The building it occupies is being more than doubled by the addition of a 3,000-square-foot tile structure to accommodate a low Mach number wind tunnel and eventually a subsonic wind tunnel.

(A high Mach number tunnel conducts tests under wind speeds of from five to 10 times the speed of sound. A low Mach number tunnel operates in the range of two to five times the speed of sound, while velocities in a subsonic tunnel are below the speed of sound.)

The research program of the high and low Mach number tunnels is sponsored by the Navy. The subsonic tunnel also has been used in the missile studies, and may be so used again in the future, but it is being used now principally for research and instruction in the Department of Aeronautical Engineering, where it assists in the determination of air loads on aircraft and their components.

Dr. M. J. Thompson, chairman of the Department of Aeronautical Engineering, is director of the Aeromechanics Laboratory. John L. Harkness is research engineer in charge.

New laboratories, also of tile construction, are being installed in one of the Research Center's largest buildings for the Engineering Mechanics, Civil Engineering and Sanitary Engineering research groups.

The Engineering Mechanics group, in addition to providing departmental research and instruction, also contributes to the guided missile research program. Dr. M. V. Barton is director.

The Civil Engineering Research Laboratory is continuing research on precast reinforced concrete construction under contracts with the Navy which recently were renewed. Thompson, a member of the University's civil engineering faculty, supervises the work, since he is director of the laboratory as well

as director of the Research Center.

The Sanitary Engineering group has begun work on two new projects. One is a study of methods of removing and disposing of radioactive algae, sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission, and the other is an investigation of the effects of sewage irrigation on soil characteristics, sponsored by the National Institute of Health. Prof. E. W. Steel of the civil engineering faculty is director.

New equipment is to be added to the Military Physics Research Laboratory, whose program has been expanded considerably. The building in which this equipment is to be installed is undergoing major alterations. The laboratory is performing research on the general problem of airborne gunfire control. Dr. M. Y. Colby is executive director, and Prof. A. E. Lockenvitz is director.

The Research Center occupies the land and buildings of a World War II government-owned magnesium plant, located about eight miles north of the University. When the plant was declared surplus the University obtained it, the consideration being the public service benefits accruing to the United States through the University's research and instructional program at the Research Center.

TWENTY RESEARCH laboratories currently are in operation at the Center under the administrative control of various University departments, bureaus, and divisions. In addition to those already mentioned, their investigations include important government-sponsored research involving flame studies, psycho-physiology, radar and other high frequency radio waves, electronics, spectroscopy, combustion kinetics, and other subjects of significance to national defense. A 4,000,000-volt Van de Graaf electrostatic generator, or "atom smasher," has been essentially completed after over two years' work and the Nuclear Physics Research Laboratory, directed by Dr. Emmett L. Hudspeth, soon will begin a program of basic research in this field.

In addition a number of the laboratories are contributing research of direct benefit to industry in the fields of geology, petroleum, structures, chemistry and corrosion.

As important as the results of this research, Thompson said, is the training provided graduate science and engineering students in research techniques. The Research Center, he said, thus is contributing directly to the supply of trained scientific personnel which is so short in the nation today.

"Building boom reported in progress at U of T's Off-Campus Research Center," The Austin Statesman, 8/26/1952.

Thompson Gets Defense Post

J. Nells Thompson, member of the University of Texas civil engineering faculty and director of the Off-Campus Research Center, has been named state coordinator for engineering services in the State Defense and Disaster Relief Division.

The University also announced the employment of Colonel John J. Ledbetter as consulting engineer to assist Thompson.

Almost from the start of the civil defense program in Texas, Thompson has been an unofficial consultant to William L. McGill, state coordinator of civil defense, in the shaping of plans for utilizing the state's engineering resources in the event of enemy attack or natural disaster.

This program is expected to be stepped up with Col. Ledbetter's assistance. Administratively, the engineering services program will be set up at the University's Off-Campus Research Center. In his capacity of consulting engineer, Col. Ledbetter will handle the details of engineering services coordination throughout the state.

McGill said Friday that Col. Ledbetter is eminently qualified for the task. A native of Missouri, he served in the Corps of Engineers during World War II. In addition to two degrees in civil engineering from Texas A&M College, he also was admitted to the Texas Bar by examination in 1935 and at present is general counsel for the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

The colonel was formerly assistant city engineer in El Paso, and was engineer and attorney for the US Department of State, United States Section, of the International Water and Boundary Commission of the United States and Mexico.

*"Thompson gets defense post,"*The Austin Statesman, 11/21/1952.



J. NEILS THOMPSON

Thompson On Panel To Study FHA

J. Neils Thompson, director of the University's Balcones Research Center and professor of civil engineering, has been named a member of an 11-man committee of the National Academy of Sciences to conduct technical in-

velopment and home building problems for the Federal Housing Administration.

The appointment was made by William H. Schelek, of Washington, executive director of the building research advisory board, a division of the National Academy of Sciences.

The committee's assignment is to spell out and document technical problems encountered in FHA-insured housing, and to advise FHA on the priority of these problems and steps necessary to solve them.

Thompson will attend a meeting of the committee in Washington Sept. 16-18. The studies will be performed under contract between the FHA and the National Academy of Sciences. Academy members are not paid for their work, however. They contribute their skills as a public service.

The National Academy of Sciences is a private organization, and its committees are not code or standard making bodies. The home building research committee, it was explained, will attempt to provide FHA with the best and most objective technical advice available. Using this advice as a basis, FHA then may inaugurate programs which may result in the revision of its home construction standards.

"Thompson on panel to study FHA," The Austin Statesman, 8/28/1957.

Industry Drive Help Urged Before Realtors

Support of the Austin Chamber of Commerce industrial development bureau in a 1960 campaign to bring more business to the city was urged Tuesday by J. Neils Thompson, chairman of the bureau and director of the Balcones Research Center at the University of Texas.

He said that during the next 10 years an increase of 125,000 population is in prospect. He said that will call for enlargement of Austin's employment opportunities, which can come through additional industry.

He spoke before members of the Austin Real Estate Board.

The speaker said there is a definite need to enlarge Austin's industrial program to bring the tax program here in better balance. He pointed out that presently 67 per cent of the city's tax revenue comes from residences, 20 per cent from commercial and only two per cent from industrial installations, with 11 per cent being paid in by agricultural and other miscellaneous pursuits.

Thompson declared that only a handful of the 600 engineering graduates each year at the University of Texas stay in Austin because of lack of professional

opportunities. There is also a need to absorb the people in Austin's good labor market.

The speaker observed that there has been some opposition in the past toward industrializing Austin on the part of those who desired to retain this city as a strictly cultural center. He added it is not planned to bring smokestacks to the city, but to establish further research organizations here plus light metal plants, plastics concerns, and furniture manufacturing and kindred types. of concerns which, he said, are not objectionable.

Thompson said the main problems confronting the bureau is lack of funds, lack of industrial sites, and the need for closer cooperation between real estate interests and Chamber of Commerce officials in selling Austin to major industrial concerns.

J. C. French and T. E. Wiley were formally welcomed as new members of the Austin Real Estate Board by Arthur Pihlgren, board president. Pihlgren also served as installing officer for the new Women's Council officers—Mrs. Inez Machu, president; Mrs. Muttie Park, vice president, and Mrs. John Barrow, secretary-treasurer.

"Industry drive help urged before realtors," The Austin Statesman, 1/20/1960.

J. Neils Thompson: Engineer

(Editor's Note: J. Neils Thompson is one of the Austin Chamber of Commerce's most dynamic workers. This word portrait of Thompson, who is director of The University of Texas' Balcones Research Center, is reprinted from Austin in Action.)

A tall young, athletic-type engineer is the capable and interesting Chamber of Commerce vice president in charge of the eco-

nomie development department.

He is J. Neils Thompson, professor of civil engineering at the University of Texas who also is director of the University's famous Balcones Research Center.

Thompson has collected more and varied committee assignments, professional and civic experiences, honors, consultation work and publication authorships in his 48 years than most men collect in a lifetime of service.

IN ADDITION, the UT graduate has trophies to prove his bowling prowess — and clippings to prove his football and track records at UT.

A former vice president of the Southwest Athletic Conference, Thompson instigated the move which drew Texas Tech into the Southwest Conference several years ago. He now serves as high jump and broadjump official in most of the Texas Relays.

Currently, his favorite and best participation sport is golf.

Sandy-haired, businesslike Thompson is well known for his great interest in all aspects of the Austin community, especially its economic development.

As this department's head in the Austin Chamber of Commerce, Thompson says: "With a new industrial brochure that has been acclaimed the best in the US, with an active Economic Devel-

er and Civic Leader

Development Council of 70 businessmen, with the addition of a half dozen new industries during the past year, and with the growth of research organizations and instrument manufacturers already here, Austin is realizing a significant and solid economic growth."

Thompson's optimism, enthusiasm and serious work in the economic field has been contagious in every part of the chamber and has done as much as anything to

further its progress, which is most certainly on the upgrade.

Born in Canyon, Oct. 14, 1912, Thompson received his elementary education in Bay City, and his B.S. and M.S. from the University of Texas. He and Mrs. Thompson are parents of one daughter.

AT THE PRESENT time 27 research laboratories are in operation at the Balcones Research Center, many of them performing vital national defense research.

As director of the Structural Mechanics Research lab at the Center, he has actively participated in research on materials of construction, highway construction, building technology and experimental stress analysis.

Last year Thompson was honored for his exceptional professional record when the Travis Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers named him "Engineer of the Year."

"J. Neils Thompson: Engineer and civic leader," The Austin American, 8/27/1961.

Science Libraries Foster Research

By J. NEILS THOMPSON
Director

Balcones Research Center
University of Texas

Anytime you get 22,000 students together, an occasional "crisis" is inevitable. One of our most recent, at The University of Texas, centered around the nickname pinned on our new Undergraduate Library and Academic Center.

The ULAC is a magnificent 5-story, \$4,700,000 building, housing more than 60,000 volumes and with 214,932 square feet of floor space. Ultimately, it will be stocked with 175,000 volumes. It shelters priceless collections of 19th and 20th Century English and American literature, a history of science and Texana and Western Americana.

The Daily Texan, our campus newspaper, promptly nicknamed it "Harry's Place," in recognition of the tireless efforts by Dr. Harry Ransom, the University chancellor, which made it possible.

This produced a ripple of controversy. It came from students who felt the name undignified — not from Dr. Ransom, who doesn't care what they call it so long as they use it.

And use it they do. It is a popular part of the University's library system, which is stocked with more than 1,580,000 volumes in many separate, specialized libraries linked together by a master index. Included are professional libraries, each with a fulltime librarian, in engineering, geology, chemistry, physics, biology, pharmacy, sociology, business and economics.

The engineering library alone subscribes to more than 1,200 periodicals.

A complete history of the American theater can be found in the University's Hoblitzelle Theater Center, which houses the magnificent Albert C. Davis Collection of photographs, playbills, posters, manuscripts and clippings of the American stage from 1830 to 1940. Used for many years in New York by scholars, motion picture companies, magazines and newspa-

pers, it was presented to The University of Texas in 1956.

The Ellery Queen Collection of mysteries includes many priceless first editions in its shelves of mystery novels and related material.

Facilities for research at the University range from a collection of locks of hair from the heads of statesmen like Napoleon and poets like Shelley to a new, \$1,500,000 computer center; from an indoor rifle range to the \$8,000,000 Balcones Research Center housing 29 research laboratories.

Outstanding specialized facilities include four Van de Graaff accelerators with provision for three of them to operate in tandem at a combined power capacity of 21,000,000 volts, a \$5,000,000 Material Science Building and a new 16-foot diameter millimeter wavelength radio telescope.

And Harry's Place.

But our most important research asset is talent. During a typical year, The University of Texas faculty produces an average of one book for every six members and 10 papers per faculty member.

Few universities anywhere can boast such a zeal for research.

Many of these faculty members serve as consultants to private research and development firms, more and more of which are finding that Austin offers unequalled advantages.

Such firms can draw on the talent and resources of Concordia College, St. Edward's University, Huston-Tillotson College, the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest and the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in addition to those of The University of Texas. Within another 30 miles of Austin are Southwestern University (in Georgetown) and Southwest Texas State College (San Marcos).

Many of these schools, including both The University of Texas and St. Edward's, offer evening courses which enable full-time employees of local firms to further their educations.

This, of course, is extremely important in an era that has, within the short space of 15 years, seen electronics leap from the vacuum tube to the transistor to the laser and maser.

In less than a generation, aeronautical engineering has jumped from piston to jet to rocket and, next, to nuclear propulsion. About half of what civil engineering graduates know today will be obsolete by 1968 — and only half of what they will need to know is available to them now. In civil engineering, unless the graduate of 10 years ago has devoted regularly 10 per cent of his time to extending his knowledge beyond his education, he will not be even with the graduate of today.

Continued education is increasingly necessary to offset obsolescence. This is particularly true for faculty members: The University of Texas recognizes that faculty members must concentrate on research, study and consultation to maintain proficiency and advance intellectually in their fields.

This attitude, as much as the University's permanent endowment fund of more than \$330,000,000 is responsible for its high academic standing. The University is the only southwestern member of the Association of American Universities, an honor accorded only 41 top universities in the United States and Canada.

Following a mandate in the Constitution adopted by the State of Texas in 1876 to "establish a University of the first class," the people of Texas opened the doors of the school on Sept. 5, 1883 — and they have been improving it ever since.

More than 100 years ago, Dr. Ransom noted recently, Texans began their efforts to acquire major research collections. Citing many recent examples of renewed interest and success in this field, he commented: "All this is venture capital placed upon the sound business proposition that Texas has an intellectual future."

"Science libraries foster research," The Austin American, 4/12/1964.



J. NEILS THOMPSON
UT aids community



BILL YOUNGBLOOD
Top fund raiser

Economic Awards Go to Austinites

By **CHRIS WHITCRAFT**
Financial Writer

Austin's first Economic Development Awards went Tuesday night to J. Neils Thompson, University of Texas professor, and William D. Bill Youngblood, Terminix of Austin.

William C. Milstead, president-elect, Austin Chamber of Commerce, and 1970 vice president and chairman of the Economic Development Council, presided over the awards dinner at the Crest.

Thompson, UT civil engineering professor and director of its Balcones Research Center and Structural Mechanics Research Laboratory, won the EDC award for long service to the Chamber.

He organized its early economic development programs. He was instrumental in a comprehensive study of Austin's potential for location of an atomic accelerator planned by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1964.

Youngblood, who has held most major volunteer community leadership roles, won the EDC award for obtaining wide financial support of chamber economic development programs.

Youngblood's efforts last year gained \$75,000 per year for economic development financing over the next four years. This was a record at \$40,000 a year more than raised in the previous four-year period.

John H. Nash Jr., Chamber president, and Vic Mathias, executive director, participated in the awards ceremonies. Milstead owns a refrigeration equipment business and Nash is president of Capitol Chevrolet.

"Economic awards go to Austinites," The Austin Statesman, 11/25/1970.

Thompson Faces New Building Job Coliseum Gets Attention Now

By LOU MAYSEL

Sports Editor

J. Neils Thompson, who has spent at least four years riding herd on the difficult task of enlarging Memorial Stadium, is moving right from one building job to another.

The faculty representative for athletics at the University of Texas, Thompson is now switching his attention to the newly-authorized "special events building" — or coliseum, if you prefer a simpler label.

As yet, Thompson, who is the chairman of the planning committee for the coliseum, can't talk in any specifics on the building to replace Gregory Gym as the home, among other things, of the UT basketball team. However, he can show you a lot of pretty slides of what other schools have built along these lines.

The slides, which Thompson took himself, are of such facilities as Indiana, LSU, Illinois, Alabama, Michigan, Notre Dame, Iowa State and New Mexico State recently finished. These he showed at the Tuesday night meeting of the Rebounders, the UT basketball boosters club.

Thompson doesn't have much hard information to give out on what UT will build, however.

"We're just not far enough down the road to have any idea what it will be like," he said.

All he can point to is that the coliseum is part of the \$60 million building program authorized by the UT System's Board of Regents two Saturdays back at their Odessa meeting.

He said the actual figure to be allocated for the coliseum has not been firmed up yet. "We're talking in terms of a facility to seat 16,000 to 20,000 spectators for basketball," he said.

The proposed site, which has been moved as often as a floating crap game during the years the coliseum was just a vision, is now "pretty firm," according to Thompson.

It will be situated between Red River and IH 35 and between 10th and 15th Streets — or in the area between Brackenridge Hospital and the Little Campus, which is now being razed.

Some indication of what UT may be shooting for is offered by the Indiana gym, which seats 17,000 and is the largest that Thompson has visited so far. Just finished, it cost a cool \$15 million and is a multi-purpose building.

The determination that Thompson and his committee must make before progressing with the design is just how many different kinds of special events the coliseum should be planned to handle.

This largely determines the cost as much as the size," Thompson said, indicating that a larger structure can be built for a specific figure if the range of uses is restricted.

He plans to get out to Utah to look over the coliseums at Utah

State and Brigham Young, which have seating capacities listed at 20,000 and 23,000, probably as part of some kind of a tour of the more desirable facilities.

While the planning for the coliseum, which hopefully would be ready for the 1975-76 basketball season, goes on, the finishing touches on the Memorial Stadium expansion will be pushed.

Among the main things yet to be done are to install the light fixtures on the west side, overpour the option area with concrete and again install the chair seats and finish the scoreboard.

Can all this be done before the football season starts with the Sept. 23 game with Miami?

"We're counting on it and we see no reason it shouldn't be ready," Thompson said.

While Thompson and his group start the planning on the coliseum, Leon Black will be finishing the recruiting of the basketball players who will probably play in it as seniors.

"We're pleased with it but obviously not as pleased as we'd be if we hadn't lost two or three we thought we had," the UT coach said of his recruiting results.

Black's main loss was Tommy Barker, the 6-11 Weslaco super prospect who jumped his letter of intent for Minnesota.

Black indicated the main recruiting work is over but for "a straggler here and a straggler there." One of those stragglers is known to be 6-8 Rick Bullock, the San Antonio Jefferson standout on whom the UT coaches have worked hard.

Another is Butch Grant, the 6-3 Wharton County Junior College guard who signed a conference letter with Texas but hasn't made it final with a national letter yet.

Switching to the prospects for next winter, Black said, "We think our outlook is good. "We've got some quality and we need to get those who're hurt to get well."

The main two injury questions are 6-8 John Mark Wilson and 6-3 Mike Dukes because "you always sweat your knee injuries more than anything else," Black indicated.

"I don't anticipate any problem with Larry Robinson's broken foot. He's not back working on it yet but that's just a matter of time."

The other medical case is 6-8 freshman Alan Heilman, who underwent corrective surgery on a hand that troubled him from high school.

Replacing Scooter Lenox in the starting lineup, which presumably Grant could do, is the main problem for Black but finding inside depth, which Barker could have given right off the bat, is a second one.

"We have enough people that one of our incoming boys or one of the people we have now will come through at that guard," Black commented.

"That's not necessarily an easy position to fill but Harry Larrabee and his ability to take off some pressure makes it easier to find someone to handle that job."

"Thompson faces new building job: Coliseum gets attention," The Austin Statesman, 5/10/1972.

Crisis May Call For Rugged Living

Austin's go-between for both "town and gown" society, J. Neils Thompson, says Austinites should be ready to "live with a little more rugged atmosphere" in order to solve the city's energy crisis.

Thompson, a University of Texas professor of civil engineering and president of the Austin Chamber of Commerce, said "the university as well as the rest of the community" should be prepared to "do as much as we should" to relieve the drain on the city's energy supplies.

"If every home owner and every wife tries to operate their appliances a little more efficiently," Thompson said when asked his reaction to a Thursday's official call for energy conservation, "every little bit counts."

"My feeling is we need to look at the big demand items," he said.

"Industry takes a lot of power," he added noting "some industries, but I hate to start mentioning names," could cut down power consumption without seriously affecting business.



J. NEILS THOMPSON
UT professor

"If you get to a very critical stage," he said, "they will come up on the priority (for cutbacks) list." He added that he hoped that stage of the crisis would never be reached.

"My appeal," he said, "is that we do all we can so that we don't shut industry down because when we do, people will be out of jobs."

"Crisis may call for rugged living," The Austin Statesman, 5/25/1973.

E1

New NCAA president wants restructuring *Texas' Thompson sets goals*

By DAN COUTURE

Sports Staff

Newly elected National Collegiate Athletic Association president J. Neils Thompson said Wednesday night the restructuring of that organization is the most important issue he will face in his two-year term.

Thompson was elected president of the NCAA Wednesday as that group closed its 71st convention. "The biggest challenge, of course, is trying to develop a system that will accommodate major institutions, whether in the framework of Division I or outside it," Thompson said from Miami Beach, Fla.

The NCAA is embroiled in controversy over whether so-called "super powers" in collegiate athletics should have sole control over their policies or if other Division I schools should have a say in the matters.

"Restructuring has to come sometime," Thompson said. "The question remains, 'How do you do it?' This is part of



THOMPSON

the challenge to this job."

Thompson authored a proposal at this convention which would have kept all present schools in the NCAA Division I classification, but would have given voting rights in that group to only those schools playing bigtime football.

Thompson said part of the reason he took the presidency was because the proposal was voted down. "You don't like to leave things half-done. College athletics is at a point, and I'm not sure critical is the right term, where it's subject to a great deal of change.

"IT'S FACED WITH competition more, for example, from professional sports, for the entertainment dollar. On the other hand, it has to operate in a framework that will insure its legitimacy and integrity," he said.

Those are only immediate problems, Thompson stressed.

"Farther down the horizon, there's Title IX. But the requirements are so ambiguous they'll have to be clarified before we can really deal with them," Thompson said.

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act state both men and women must be given equal athletic opportunity but there has been constant debate as to just what establishes equal opportunity.

Thompson's duties with the NCAA will consist of presiding over the group's executive committee. "It's a fairly powerful post," Thompson said. "The council formulates policy and operating procedures of the NCAA."

Thompson said his present duties demand approximately 70 hours per week and he estimated his added responsibilities will take an additional 15 hours per week.

THOMPSON IS A PROFESSOR of civil engineering at Texas, UT's faculty representative to the Southwest Conference and was a founder of the Balcones Research Center.

Thompson succeeds John A. Fuzak of Michigan State University.

Edgar A. Sherman of Muskingum College was elected secretary-treasurer and the NCAA also elected seven persons to serve two-year terms on the policy-making NCAA council.

"Texas' Thompson sets goals," Austin American-Statesman, 1/13/1977.

Thompson insisted on playing by rules

As a longtime member and finally as president of the NCAA, J. Neils Thompson had many opportunities to come face-to-face with cheating in college athletics. The tall, gentlemanly engineering professor from Texas always had a singular reaction: Follow the rules, have integrity, do right.

Ten years ago, when the NCAA was laboring along with only two enforcement-investigative officials, Thompson led an effort which resulted in UT offering a \$5,000 grant to the NCAA for a study of beefing up enforcement procedures. He also offered the university's help in raising \$500,000 to expand the program.

"We felt the way things were going that we (NCAA schools) were going to be back in trouble like we were 20-25 years ago," he said.

The NCAA turned down UT's offer, but made the changes with a concurrence of its members. Now, Thompson said, cheating is "not nearly as bad as it was back then. We have some bad ones. But there is not nearly the cheating that people think. My thinking is in most instances the process stands up."

Thompson's term as NCAA president expired recently, and he has resigned as chairman of the Athletics Council at UT and as the school's faculty representative. He has been involved with athletics at UT for 24 years, the last 18 continuously. The record is admirable.

I've known country preachers to bootleg out of the cab stand on Saturday night and give a fire-breathing sermon on the evils of drinking come Sunday morning. But that was never the case of Thompson's advocacy of the NCAA rules and the University of Texas.

Even in places where UT isn't well-liked, the school has a reputation for integrity. In towns where people would rather beat Texas than wake up in the morning, they admit that the Longhorns don't buy athletes.

Leaving the school's athletic service, Thompson takes as much pride in that as anything.

"I share in this pride," he said. "It's something many people are responsible for. But I rejoice in the fact that we have this reputation.

"I want to give a lot of credit to the coaches. Darrell Royal set an excellent example, and virtually all our coaches have followed the same line. They know that we are quick to report ourselves for anything. The fact that we've done so for so many years gives us pride.

"I've tried this out on every president (of UT) that I've been involved with, and that's been a great many. The question is this: 'Do we adhere to the rules?'" All have said yes. And if they hadn't? "I wouldn't have been around too long," replied Thompson.

It hasn't always been easy.

"A lot of people on the outside have not been very happy with us because we haven't played the same kind of game Oklahoma has," Thompson said. "And we are responsible not only for our alumni, but for all our athletic supporters.

"That's where the trouble often is. That's where Oklahoma State (currently on probation for illegal inducements made by the school's supporters) is right now. I believe the president of Oklahoma State is sincere when he says he wants to get things under control. But I don't believe he can get things like that under control. I don't believe the president of Oklahoma can get things under control. And I think things are out of control."

The wealthy friends of any university want the school to succeed, and some are willing to break the rules. Texas has had such offers of help, Thompson said.

"But our coaches have set the tenor (for following the rules). D. X. Bible set it way back in his time and Darrell has held onto it. It always enabled me as a member and president of the NCAA to push for a strong enforcement program."

Royal returned the compliment. "With his (Thompson's) support, it made it easy for me stay on track," the UT athletic director said. "I never felt any pressure to walk the straight line. Hopefully, I was doing it willingly. But I will tell you this: Had we done it differently, Neils Thompson wouldn't have tolerated it. He starts from integrity."

Thompson sat in his office Thursday afternoon, looking out over the campus. A late summer shower had washed over the area and now the sun had broken through again.

"Sometimes," he mused, "I guess people wondered whose side I was on. When I had to tell a supporter to back off or declare a kid ineligible, I was like the guy in the black hat."

This is where the good professor was wrong. In his efforts and service to Texas and intercollegiate athletics at large, he was always one of the guys in a white hat.

"Thompson insisted on playing by rules," Austin American-Statesman, 9/8/1979.

J. Neils Thompson, a retired University of Texas engineering professor and a major force in college athletics for almost 25 years, died Friday after a long illness. He was 85.

Thompson was a former president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the governing body for collegiate sports. He was a faculty representative and chairman of the UT Athletics Council.

Former Texas sports information director Jones Ramsey said Thompson was ``highly revered" by the NCAA.

``The NCAA went to him for a lot of opinions," Ramsey said. ``He was highly respected by the NCAA, even though he did not work for them. (The president's job was not a paid position.) He never used his power to promote Texas. He used his power to promote the NCAA."

Said longtime Associated Press writer Denne Freeman: ``He had a knack for getting things done. . . . The job he did got a lot of national respect for Texas and the old Southwest Conference in the days he ran the show. And he was a good guy, too."

Thompson served 24 years on the UT athletics council during the 1960s and 1970s. A civil engineering professor at UT, Thompson was the first director of the Balcones Research Center and wrote more than 200 technical books.

A UT graduate, Thompson was a member of the 1934 Longhorn football team that earned a 7-6 victory over Notre Dame, a dominant team of the era. He was named to the Longhorn Hall of Honor in 1979.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home in Austin.

J. Neils Thompson death notice, Austin American-Statesman, 9/27/1998.

J. NEILS THOMPSON

J. Neils Thompson passed away Friday, September 25, 1998, in Austin, Texas. He was born on October 14, 1912, in Canyon, Texas.

At the time of his death, Mr. Thompson was professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin, having begun teaching there in 1941. He retired from active teaching in 1983.

He began his career at the Texas Highway Department in 1935 as a research engineer and junior resident engineer. He was a registered professional engineer, serving as president of the Travis Chapter, Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 1950, as President of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 1953 and president of the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1965-66. He was an Honorary Member of the Bricklayers International Union and was elected "Fellow" of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1968, a "Fellow" in the American Concrete Institute in 1973 and a "Fellow" in the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1974.

During his tenure at UT, he founded and served 31 years as Director of Balcones Research Center. His service to the University included Chairman of the Athletics Council, Intercollegiate Athletics for Men and Faculty Representative from 1944-46 and again from 1963-1979, during which more than \$60,000,000 in facilities utilized by Intercollegiate Athletics were constructed. As President of the Southwest Athletic Conference in 1973 and 1974, he led the successful effort to bring Texas Tech University and the University of Houston into the conference. He served as President of the National Collegiate Athletic Association in 1977 and 1978 and was elected to the Longhorn Hall of Honor in 1979.

Service to the community included Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Edward's University, from which he received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters in 1996; past President and Vice President for Economic Development of the Austin Chamber of Commerce; past President of the Austin Country Club, Austin

Kiwanis Club and the Austin Methodist City Board of Missions.

Professor Thompson is survived by his wife Wanda, whom he married on August 3, 1940, at the University United Methodist Church of Austin; one daughter, Patricia Laitala and her husband Wayne, of Richardson, Texas; two grandsons, Michael Neils Laitala, who is attending The University of Texas at Austin, and David Thompson Laitala, a student at Georgia Institute of Technology; one sister, Mrs. Glendine Short of Bay City, Texas; and three nephews, Michael Wade of Bay City, Texas, Dr. Pat Wade of Emporia, Kansas, and Harry Sockol of Lake Travis.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 27, 1998, at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin. Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 1998, at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, with burial at Austin Memorial Park. Honorary pallbearers will be Dr. Elmer C. Baum, Dr. James Graham, Major General George A. Edwards Jr., USAF (ret) and Professor Thompson's three nephews.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar Blvd. 452-8811
J. Neils Thompson obituary, Austin American-Statesman, 9/27/1998.

Wanda Thompson

Wanda Thompson, of Austin, Texas, passed away on September 4, 2005. She was born on February 13, 1915, to John Samuel Austin Stephens and Effie Katherine Sapp Stephens in Timpson, Texas, where she spent her childhood and graduated high school. Leaving "Deep East Texas", she moved to Austin to become secretary to Dewitt C. Greer at the State Highway Department. Here she met and married **J. Neils Thompson** on August 3, 1940, in the University United Methodist Church, where they maintained life-long membership.

Wanda was devoted to the University of Texas, where Neils was a Professor Emeritus in Civil Engineering. Together, they were instrumental in the progress of the University through involvement in intercollegiate athletics, Balcones Research Center and the Department of Engineering.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Patricia and Wayne Laitala of Richardson, Texas; grandsons, Michael Neils Laitala of Denver, Colorado, and David Thompson Laitala of Austin, Texas; nephew, Harry Sockol and wife, Kay of Lake Travis; and aunt, Ercyl Tipton of Jacksboro, Texas.

Wanda stayed in her home with the serene views of the Taylor Slough trees with the assistance of many wonderful caregivers. The family wishes to express its appreciation to Dolores Chacon, Ronda Beans, Antonia Mendez, Frances Dembly, Delores Ellis, Eloisa Gutierrez and Lydia Saucedo for their loyal companionship.

A memorial service will be held at the Weed-Corley-Fish Chapel on Wednesday, September 7th at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the **J. Neils Thompson** Graduate Fellowship in Structural Engineering or the **J. Neils Thompson** Centennial Teaching Fellowship in Civil Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, P.O. Box 7458, Austin, Texas 78713-7458.

Wanda Thompson obituary, Austin American-Statesman, 9/6/2005.

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Advertisement, The Austin Statesman, 10/19/1971.

*To School Board***R. Desmond Kidd
Seeks Re-election**

R. DESMOND KIDD
Seeks re-election

R. Desmond Kidd Friday pledged to conduct a "vigorous campaign" to seek re-election to the Austin Independent School District board of trustees in the April 1 election.

Kidd announced his candidacy and filed for re-election to Position 7 on the board.

"In all honesty, I feel that I cannot bow out at this time on a responsibility that I feel I have to the school children and citizens of Austin," Kidd said.

Kidd said he feels continuity on the board is of extreme importance "at this point in time." He said it is for this reason he decided to run for re-election.

He said he feels his experience in the desegregation problem, school construction and other vital issues now facing the district will be valuable to the district.

Currently serving his second year as the board's vice president, Kidd is completing

his first six-year term. He was elected to the board in 1964. He also has served two years as board secretary.

Kidd told the press that making the decision to run for a second term "has not been easy. The school district will have many critical problems in the next few years."

A native of Austin, Kidd graduated from Austin High School in 1945 and from the University of Texas with a bachelor of science degree in physical education.

He was an educator before launching his career in the insurance business. He taught and coached in Beaumont in 1948-50 and joined the U.S. Navy in 1950 where he piloted jets and helicopters. He currently holds a commercial pilot's license.

In 1954, Kidd began his career in Austin schools as coach and teacher at McCallum High School.

Kidd was an executive with American Founders Life Insurance Co. but chose to return to the production end of the business as a representative of Aetna Life and Casualty Co. with Insurance Associates in Austin. He is a qualifying member of the Million Dollar Round Table and of the Austin Association of Life Underwriters.

He and his wife, Jayne, are parents of three children who are students in the Austin School system. They are Kelly, Guy and Desmond Jr.

Gus Garcia, local certified public accountant, has filed for election to Position 7 and will oppose Kidd in the upcoming election.

"R. Desmond Kidd seeks re-election," The Austin Statesman 2/12/1972.



Advertisement, The Austin American Statesman 8/8/1976.

Building Permits and Maps

CONNECTION CHARGE \$ #3376 No 17928

APPLICATION FOR SEWER CONNECTION.

Austin, Texas 8-19-1941

To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,
City of Austin, Texas

Sir:-

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by Neil J. Thompson at 2403 Copo Ave. Street, further described as lot 189#E289 block 190, outlot subdivision Tarry Town #6 division 6, plat 162 which is to be used as a Res

In this place there are to be installed 5

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance charge.

I D.E.E.P. Respectfully, R. Almoat
A.T. - P.L.

Stub Out:

Connected 10-15-41 Permit Pd. 8-19-41
Size of Main 4" stub inches. 10-14-41
Size of Service 4 inches.
2 1/2 Feet Deep in Gutter
Feet from Property Line Con 2
Feet from Curb Line 3rd of P

Inspected by Boatman B-1404
Connection made by Comptrol PL
5608 sewer stub at east lot line
L. H. Brown

Sewer connection permit issued to Neil J. [sic] Thompson, 8/9/1941.

J. Neils Thompson	2403 Tower Drive
162 E.1/2 of 190, all of 189	- - -
Tarrytown #6	
Enlarge kitchen & add screen porch (re)	
45625 7-25-50	\$1500.00
Ed E. Bustin	

Building permit issued to J. Neils Thompson to enlarge kitchen and add screen porch, 7/25/1950.

Desmon Kidd	2403 Tower Drive
162 E. 1/2 of 190 & all of 189	
Tarrytown #6	
Frame addition to residence-	
79903 5-22-61	4000.00
Jack Rather	add 3
FAMILY ROOM	BATHROOM
	FIREPLACE

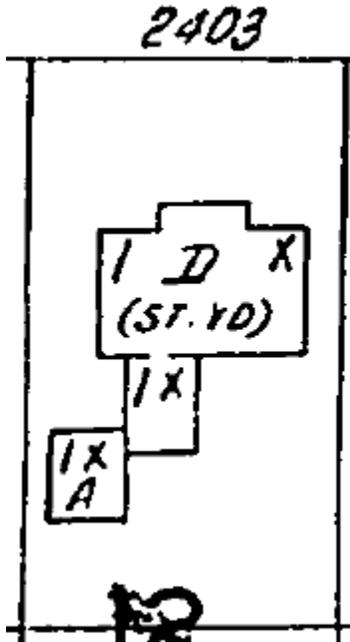
Building permit issued to Desmon [sic] Kidd to construct a wood-frame addition, 5/22/1961.

ADDRESS: 2403 Lower Dr		189 + E 1/2 of LOT. 190		BLK. -	SUB. Jarrytown 6	
PLAT: 162	FIRE ZONE 3	USE DIST. A	H & A DIST. 1		OCCUPANCY Den + Bath	
LAYOUT		FRAMING		FINAL		79903
5/23/61	PRINC. BLDG.	ACC. BLDG.	5/23/61	PRINC. BLDG.	ACC. BLDG.	7/26/61
FOUNDATION			FLOOR-JOIST SIZE & O.C.			NECESSARY BLDG. CONN. ✓
FR: SETBACK			CEILING-JOIST SIZE & O. C.			ROOM VENTILATION
AGGREGATE & MIN. SIDE YD.	✓		STUD SIZE & O. C.	✓		WATER & SEWER RELEASE
SIDE STREET YARD			MASONRY WALL			PLMB. DEPT. RELEASE
			STAIRS REQ. AND NO.			HEATING & A/C RELEASE
			ATTIC FIRE STOPS REQ.			ELECTRIC DEPT. RELEASE
			FIRE WALLS REQ. & NO.			ENG. DEPT. RELEASE
			ROOF OVERHANG			FIRE MARSHAL RELEASE
						ROOF OVERHANG ✓
						PAVED PARK REQ. & NO.
						SPECIAL NOTES
						13x13 + 19x24 - 21 = 646
						Close in screen porch for den to close in an open porch for new bath.
						Kill Rather

Lower Dr

INSPECTOR

Inspection card for a rear addition, 5/23/1961.



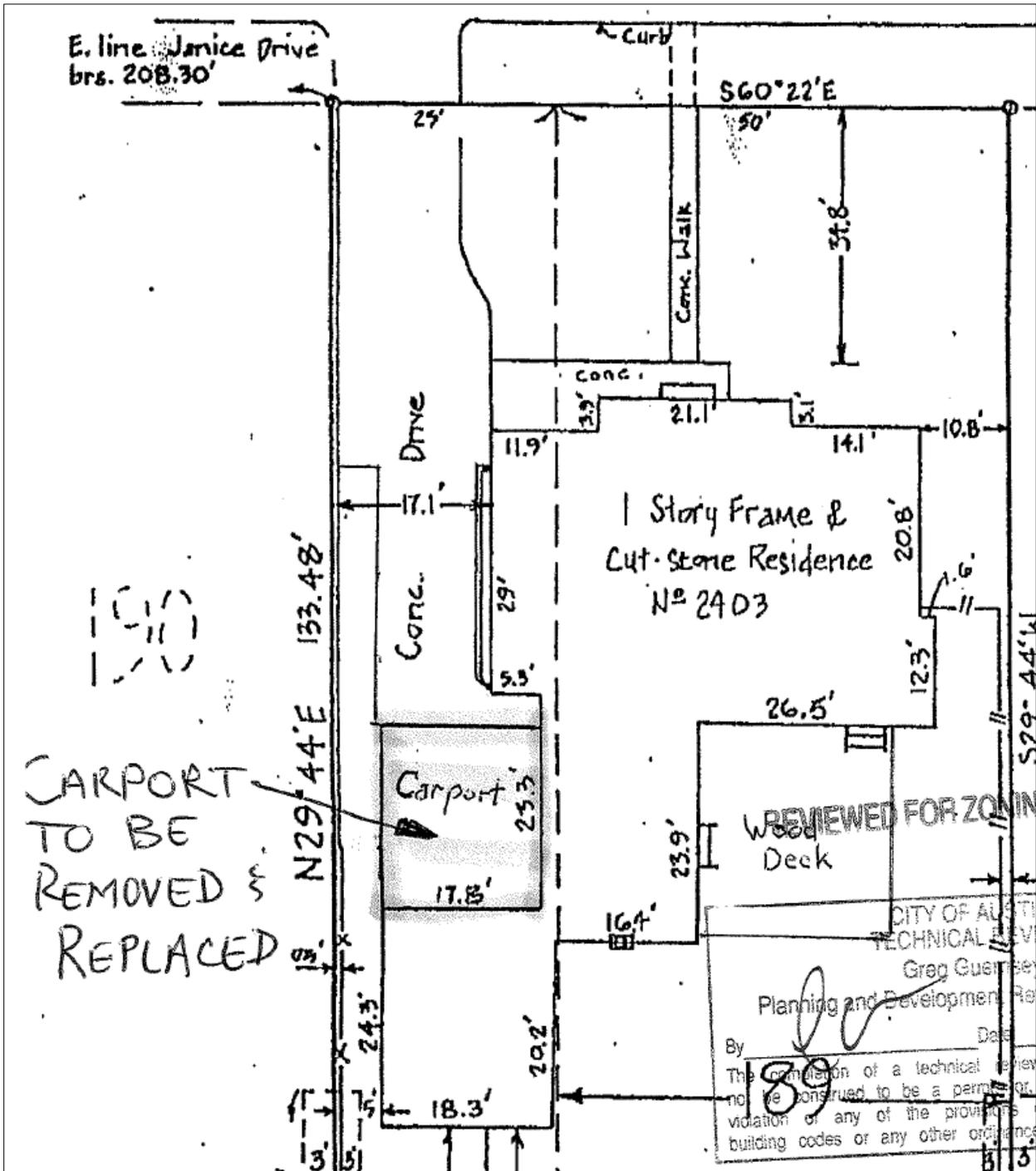
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing building footprint, May 1962.

1981 011917 00 00 BP Building Permit			
Type	BP Building Permit	Status	Final
Sub Type	R- 435 Renovations/Remodel	Parent ID	
Work	Remodel	Row ID	509037
Group	Permits		
Primary Property			
Address	2403 TOWER DRIVE, AUSTIN, Texas, 78703, USA	Roll	0117040402
		Prop ID	372260
		Folder Unit	
Location	Tarrytown 36 Block: -- Lot: 9999 Tarrytown 36 9999 --		
Tracking Dates and Reference Information			
In Date	Jun 08, 1981	Issue/Approve	Jun 08, 1981
		Expires	Jul 16, 1981
Ref. No.	0215832	Issued By	PIER_ADP
		Final Date	Jul 16, 1981
Name	2403 Tower Drive A 00000		Priority
Description			
Remodel Exist Res			
Conditions			
Smoke Detector Req --This P Ermit Not For Re-Roofing.Dormant 4-5-90 Per Fred Castillo***			

Record of building permit to remodel residence, 6/8/1981.

1984 026926 00 00 BP Building Permit			
Type	BP Building Permit	Status	Final
Sub Type	R- 435 Renovations/Remodel	Parent ID	
Work	Remodel	Row ID	545509
Group	Permits		
Primary Property			
Address	2403 TOWER DRIVE, AUSTIN, Texas, 78703, USA	Roll	0117040402
		Prop ID	372260
		Folder Unit	
Location	Tarrytown #6 Block: Lot: E1/2 Of Lot 190 & All Of 189 Tarrytown #6 E1/2 Of Lot 190 & All Of 189		
Tracking Dates and Reference Information			
In Date	Dec 11, 1984	Issue/Approve	Dec 11, 1984
		Expires	Mar 22, 1985
Ref. No.	8425927	Issued By	PIER_ADP
		Final Date	Mar 22, 1985
Name	2403 Tower Drive A 00000	Priority	
Description			
Remodel,Re-Roof Portion, & Reside Ext Garage**			
Conditions			
Of Res To Create Bedroom & Bath, Relocate Washer/Dryer Drnd Oked By C. Schlagel No Remodeling To Res*			

Record of building permit to remodel residence, 12/11/1984.



Plans showing demolition of carport and construction of new carport, 11/18/2012.