

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2024**  
**HR-2024-005055**  
**OLD WEST AUSTIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
**1604 NILES ROAD**

## **PROPOSAL**

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Construct additions, a pool, a pergola, and an outbuilding.

## **PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS**

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- 1) Construct additions to the house at all elevations, including a sunroom, bay window, and mudroom.
- 2) Construct a covered pool patio and pool.
- 3) Construct a kitchenette/bathroom accessory building.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

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The house at 1604 Niles Rd. is a two-story Colonial Revival building designed by Staub and Rather, with decorative brickwork, a symmetrical plan, and several additions. Pat Fleming designed the terraced rear landscaping.

## **RESEARCH**

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The house at 1604 Niles Road, also addressed as 4 Niles Road, was constructed in 1934 by Staub and Rather, a Houston firm. Houstonian Pat Fleming designed its terraced landscaping. Its first long-term occupants were Herman Brown, president of Brown & Root, and his wife Margaret Root Brown. With his brother-in-law Dan Root, Brown founded one of the largest construction companies in the world. Brown's successes in Texas included the building of the Mansfield Dam, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, fleets of ships aiding the US Navy in World War II, and the Houston Manned Spacecraft Center<sup>1</sup>, along with many national and international projects. The property was later home to architect R. Max Brooks of Brooks & Barr—who also worked on the Manned Spacecraft Center, among other well-known civic and institutional buildings, including the Lyndon B. Johnson presidential library--and attorney Albert P. Jones, University of Texas Law professor and State Bar president. It was also briefly home to Albert Negley, one of the primary developers responsible for the incorporation and design of Olmos Park in San Antonio<sup>2</sup>, as well as Texas Railroad Commissioner Ernest Thompson.

## **DESIGN STANDARDS**

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The City of Austin's [Historic Design Standards](#) (March 2021) are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and are used to evaluate projects in National Register districts. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

### *Repair and alterations*

The proposed project removes some historic fabric at the front of the building to construct a mudroom, though only a small part of the changes are visible from the street.

### *Residential additions*

The proposed additions are constructed in the style of Staub and Rather, and they are mostly shielded from public view and are located on the back and sides of the house.

### *Residential new construction*

The proposed new construction is limited to the back of the property, and all structures are one story in height with unobtrusive footprints. However, they may impact what remains of the original designed landscape.

### *Summary*

The project mostly meets the applicable standards.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/brown-herman>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.texasmonthly.com/being-texan/the-autumn-of-alamo-heights/>

## PROPERTY EVALUATION

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The property contributes to the Old West Austin National Register district.

### *Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

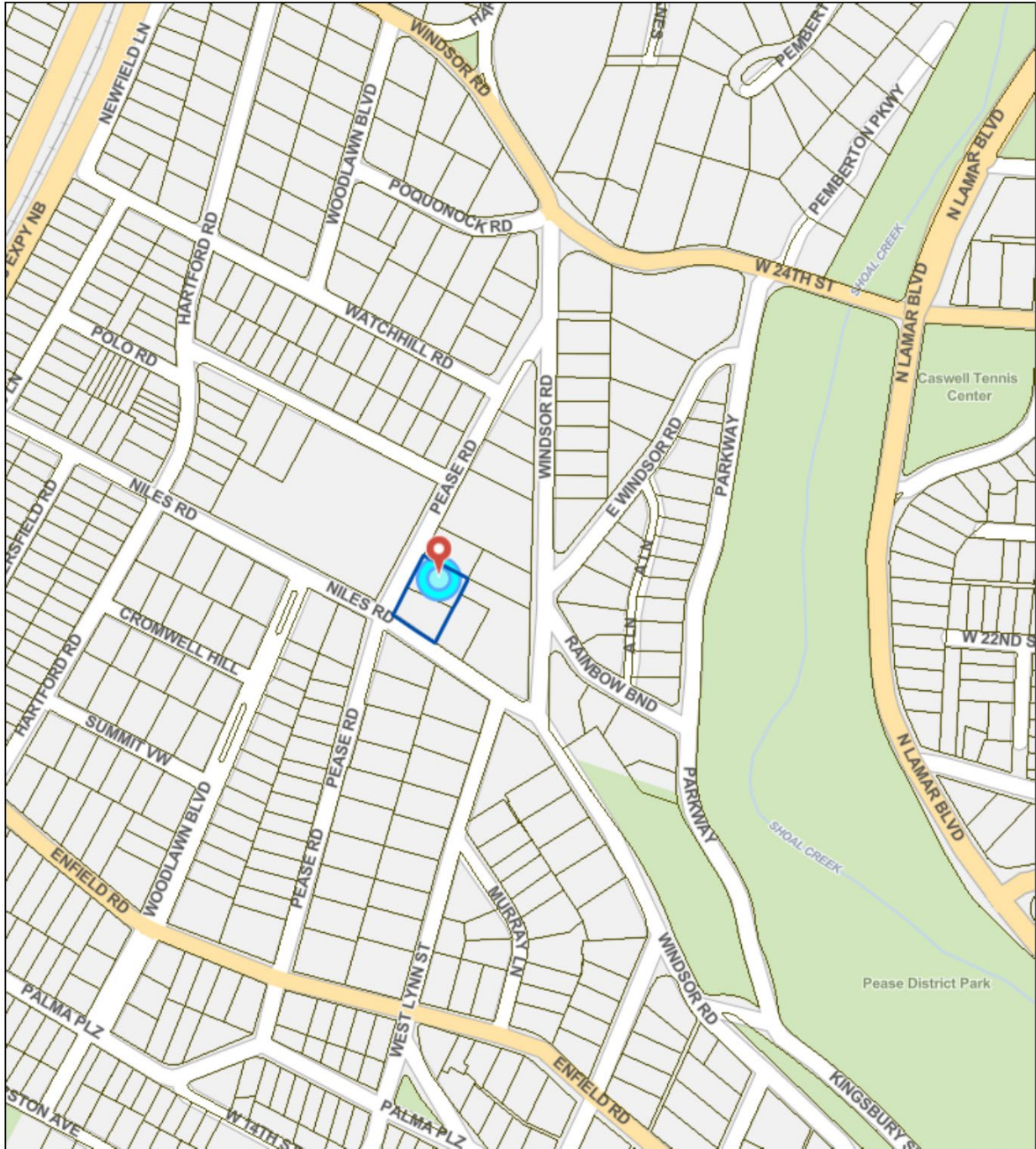
- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.
- 2) The building appears to retain moderate integrity. Some additions appear to have taken place outside the period of significance, and windows have been replaced. The landscaping at the rear of the building appears to have been modified as additions to the building took place, but some landscape elements remain.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff has evaluated the property and determined that it meets two criteria:
  - a. Architecture. The building is constructed in the Colonial Revival style by Houston architects Staub and Rather.
  - b. Historical association. The property appears to have significant historical associations with Herman Brown of Brown & Root, Inc.; R. Max Brooks of Brooks & Barr, architects; and Albert Jones, University of Texas Law professor and State Bar President. It is likely that other extant buildings better showcase Brooks and Brown's impact on the nation's built environment.
  - 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 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 may be a significant designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city as a design by landscape architect Pat Fleming.


## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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Comment on plans, encouraging the applicant to avoid disturbing any original landscape elements that remain of Pat Fleming's design. The proposed modifications will have a limited effect on the overall form of the original portion of the building.

## LOCATION MAP






1: 4800

1/22/2024

**HR 24-005055**

1604 NILES 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. This product has been produced by the City of Austin for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

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*Photos*









*Historic review application, 2024*

### *Occupancy History*

City Directory Research, January 2023

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1959 | Wilbert Stearn, renter – housekeeper for 4 Niles Rd.<br>Alfred W. Negley, owner  |
| 1955 | Ernest O. and Myda Thompson, owners – chairman, State Railroad Commission  |
| 1952 | Ernest O. and Myda Thompson, owners – chairman, State Railroad Commission  |
| 1947 | Carmen M. Garcia, renter – UT student<br>Herman and Margaret Brown, owners – president, Brown & Root Inc.  |
| 1941 | Herman and Margaret Brown, owners – president, Brown & Root Inc. and Brown Securities Corp. oil producer,<br>412 Fannin  |
| 1939 | Eunice Taylor, renter – cook for 4 Niles Rd.<br>Herman and Margaret Brown, owners – oil operator, 412 Fannin; President-Treasurer, Brown & Root Inc.;<br>President, Brown Securities Co. |

- 1932 Herman and Margaret R. Brown, owners – president, Brown & Root Inc.  
Rear: Evelyn Greenwood
- 1930 Rear: Lutitia and Oscar Polk, renters – domestic laborers for 4 Niles Road (*Note: the directory indicates that the Polk family is African American*)  
Fay Rudd Chiles, renter – stenographer, Brown & Root Inc.  
Herman and Margaret R. Brown, owners – president, Brown & Root Inc.

### *Historical Information*

**BROWN, HERMAN (1892–1962).** Herman Brown, business founder and executive, was born in Belton, Texas, on November 10, 1892, the son of Riney Louis and Lucy Wilson (King) Brown. His Texas roots went back two generations to 1839; his mother's grandfather, Hugh B. King, and his mother's father, Rufus Y. King, were county judges of Milam and Lee counties, respectively. After studying briefly at the University of Texas in 1911, Brown was employed by a contractor in Belton. In 1914 he was given eighteen mules in lieu of back wages and went into the construction business. In 1919 his brother-in-law, Dan Root, advanced him money for working capital, and the company was named Brown and Root, Incorporated. In 1922 Herman's younger brother, George Rufus Brown, joined the firm. Dan Root, a prosperous Central Texas cotton farmer, died in 1929. The paving of dirt roads and building of steel bridges for municipal and county governments in Central Texas led the firm to a successful joint bid in 1936 to construct the Marshall Ford Dam (now Mansfield Dam) on the Colorado River. A 1940 contract to construct the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station was the first of their big federal war projects. The brothers formed the Brown Shipbuilding Company in 1942 and constructed more than 350 vessels for the navy. The shipyard had a labor force of 25,000 and won the Army-Navy E and a presidential citation. After World War II the Brown brothers and other investors purchased the Big and Little Inch pipelines from the government with the winning high bid of \$143 million and organized a new company, Texas Eastern Transmission Company, which is now a part of Panhandle Eastern Corporation. Brown and Root was widely known during the 1950s and 1960s for constructing United States air and naval bases (in Spain, France, and Guam) and roads, dams, bridges, petrochemical plants, and large offshore drilling platforms. In 1961 the company won the planning contract for the \$200 million Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston. In December 1962 the Halliburton Company of Dallas purchased Brown and Root, which continues to operate under its own name. In 1917 Brown married Margaret Root; they later adopted two children. Brown died on November 15, 1962, and was buried in Glenwood Cemetery, Houston. Margaret Root Brown died on January 25, 1963, and is buried by his side. Brown was a cofounder of the Brown Foundation. He was a member of the board of directors of First City National Bank of Houston, Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation, Southwestern University, Armco Steel Corporation, and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. He was also active in oil and gas exploration and ranching.

Houston *Chronicle*, November 16, 1962. Houston *Post*, November 16, 1962.



Herman Brown. Courtesy of Gittings Photography and Rice University. Image available on the [Internet](#) and included in accordance with [Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107](#).



Margarett Root Brown. Image available on the [Internet](#) and included in accordance with [Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107](#).

Herman Brown obituary via <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/brown-herman>





(July 19, 1907 - Sept. 9, 1992)

**ALBERT P. JONES**

**State Bar President, 1950-1951**

Albert P. Jones served as State Bar President in 1950-1951. He activated and supported the revision of the Texas Business Corporation Act which was passed by the Legislature in 1955. The State Bar under Jones' leadership adopted for the first time a program of Legal Aid Clinics in all financially viable localities; and due to the increase in Bar fees and Jones' strict fiscal policies, the Bar ended the year with a surplus that enabled Jones to recommend new capital expenditures to his successor. Jones was a member of the Houston and American Bar Associations. He was Houston Bar treasurer in 1944-1945 and director in 1946-1947. He served as a director of the State Bar in 1948-1950 and as a delegate to the 5th Circuit Judicial Conference in 1956-1962. In 1963 he was First Assistant Attorney General of Texas, and in 1951 became a member of the Texas Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure.

Jones was born in Dallas on July 19, 1907, to Dr. Bush and Ethel H. Jones. He earned his B.A., M.A., and LL.B. degrees from the University of Texas, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Delta Phi fraternities, Friar Society, Chancellors, and Order of the Coif. He was editor-in-chief of the *Texas Law Review* in 1929-1930. Jones was admitted to the Bar in 1930 and began his practice of the law in Houston. In 1962 he moved to Austin but returned to Houston in 1977. An Episcopalian, Democrat, and Mason, Jones was a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a life member of the American Law Institute, and a Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Texas where he taught from 1962-1977. He was president of the *Texas Law Review* Publications, Inc., in 1971-1974 and belonged to the Order of Barristers, American Judicature Society, and Southwestern Legal Foundation. He wrote a number of legal books and articles. Jones married Annette Lewis in 1936 and has two sons, one of whom became an Austin attorney. Jones died on September 9, 1992.

*Texas Bar:* [https://www.texasbar.com/AM/PrinterTemplate.cfm?Section=President\\_Bios&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=20655&FuseFlag=1](https://www.texasbar.com/AM/PrinterTemplate.cfm?Section=President_Bios&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=20655&FuseFlag=1)

## ***R. Max Brooks, 75, Architect; Designed U.S. Labor Building***

R. Max Brooks, a Texas architect who designed some major buildings for the Government, died Thursday of cancer.

He was 75 years old.

Among Mr. Brooks's projects in his 46-year career were the United States Embassy in Mexico City, the Labor Department Building in Washington and the Manned Spaceflight Center in Houston. He also designed the Lyndon B. Johnson Memorial Library at the University of Texas and the Federal Building here.

He is a former Commissioner of the Austin Housing Authority. Mr. Brooks graduated from the University of Texas in 1933 and received a master of science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1936.

*New York Times, 1982:* <https://www.nytimes.com/1982/09/11/obituaries/r-max-brooks-75-architect-designed-us-labor-building.html>



## PARTY SERIES DRAWING TO CLOSE

The series of parties inspired by the announcement of Miss Yvonne Thornton's engagement to William Robinson O'Hair of Lubbock will draw to a close before the wedding Wednesday evening in the garden of the James P. Nash home.

A number of out-of-town guests, arriving for the ceremony, will share in the concluding affairs—a cocktail party Tuesday evening at the W. M. Thornton home, 2502 Jarrett, preceding the rehearsal dinner at the Country club, for which Mr. and Mrs. Thornton are also hosts, and a luncheon at the club Wednesday with Mrs. Dan Moody entertaining the wedding party and the families.

Meanwhile the "French exposition" dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brown Monday evening at their home, No. 4 Niles road, added another gay compliment to the series. In keeping with the Parisian theme, guests were seated at tables on the terrace, sidewalk cafe fashion, and around them were signs and posters ballyhooing typical exposition features. There was "Le Bal Tabarin," twinkling in electric lights an invitation to a French night club, a trousseau shop and French figures adding piquancy to the scene.

## Herman Browns Complimented Nashes Guests

### Cocktail Party Honored Nancy And K. L. Woo

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brown entertained with a cocktail party at their home, 4 Niles road, Thursday evening complimenting Miss Nancy Woo and K. L. Woo of Shanghai, China, house guests of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Nash.

Christmas decorations were featured for the informal gathering with the Christmas tree the central attraction. Holly, wreaths, and ornaments gave the color to the arrangements.

Guests included Miss Woo, Mr. Woo, Misses Margaret Beverly, Margaret Belmont, Ellen Steck, Elizabeth Thomas, Catherine Nash, and Mary Nash and Jack Taylor of New York city, Harry Austin, George Page, George Sparks, George Chiles, Jack Chiles, Jay Sarver, John Barkley, Brown Booth, Bill Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Nash, and Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

Monday night Mr. Woo and Miss Woo will be honorees at a cocktail party given by Miss Margaret Beverly at the home of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. A. F. Beverly, 1208 Castle Hill, at 8 p. m. preceding the Cotillion club formal dance at the Austin Country club at 10 p. m.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 27 July 1937: 5.*

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 24 Dec 1937: 5.*

**HONORED AT RECEPTION**—The great Wagnerian tenor, Lauritz Melchior, was introduced to Austin music-lovers at a reception after his guest appearance with the Austin Symphony Orchestra Sunday afternoon. Pictured at the party are

(from left) Mrs. Ezra Rachlin; Mr. Melchior and his wife; Lieutenant General and Mrs. Ernest O. Thompson, hosts at the post-concert affair; and Mr. Rachlin, symphony director. —(Neal Douglass Photo.)



**AFTER THE CONCERT**—Mr. and Mrs. Max Starcke are shown at the party given Sunday afternoon in the Thompson home, 4 Niles Road, honoring the Melchiors and the Rachlins. In the background is Mrs. Stuart MacCorkle. The Sunday performance marked the 300th appearance of Mr. Rachlin with Mr. Melchior.—(Neal Douglass Photo.)

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 16 Jan 1951: 7.*

## Ed Maurer Family Knows Art Is a Family Affair

By ESTHER BUFFLER

Editor's Note:

The Texas Fine Arts Association is sponsoring a benefit "Tour of Arts" to encourage people in our community to come out and experience for themselves the fresh beauty of art in the home. Owners of five outstanding Austin homes are opening their houses to the public April 11 from 10 a. m. till 8 p. m. Your ticket, which costs \$2, is a detailed map showing the route. Tickets are available at Laguna Gloria, Driskill Hotel, Hemphill's on the Drag and the American National Bank. Homes on the tour are the Wayman Adams Studio, 2815 San Gabriel; Mr. and Mrs. William J. Murray Jr., 1906 Scenic Drive; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Negley, 4 Niles Road; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Maurer, 2303 West 11th, and General and Mrs. Paul Wakefield, Route 7, Wastlake Drive.

The following story is written to show that art is a family affair, and the enrichment that living with art can give.

swatches of fabric with decor in plans for a new house he is designing. He catches the mood from the dining room area of his own contemporary home.

While Mrs. Maurer, an inspiration in decor herself, fiddles with finding a pattern in mosaic that pleases her, Mark is finding his own fun moving freely and rhythmically among swirls of finger paint.

Mrs. Maurer (the former Betty Fugler of Kerrville) and Mr. Maurer met shortly after his war duty in 1945, married, and decided to live in Austin. He took his degree in architecture from the UT and she worked as an executive secretary.

With the added family responsibilities now taking priority in her life, Betty feels her "moments" with art are terribly important to her sense of well being. Used to a disciplined business world, she needs an outlet from house chores.

"When things get tiresome, muddled, boring, and I begin to feel sorry for myself, I just stop wherever I am in the middle of the clutter, sit down and work on my mosaic."

Betty pushed back her dark hair.

*Buffler, Esther. The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 15 Mar 1959: C15.*



Ezra Rachlin, director of the Austin Symphony Orchestra, is discussing orientation meetings for volunteers working in the 1960-61 Continuance Fund Campaign, with Mrs. Alfred W. Negley, center, and Mrs. A. H. Dickin-

son Jr., co-chairmen of the Women's Special Gifts Division, at a meeting Thursday morning in Mrs. Negley's home, where plans for their women volunteers' part in attaining the campaign's \$36,000 goal was completed.

Austin Statesman-UPI

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 26 Feb 1960: 6.*



# HERMAN BROWN, BUILDER, 70, DIES

**Houston Industrialist Led  
Company Since 1929**

HOUSTON, Nov. 15 (AP)—Herman Brown, president of Brown & Root, Inc., one of the world's largest construction companies, died tonight after collapsing at a dinner in a private club. Mr. Brown had undergone heart surgery in 1960. His age was 70.

Brown & Root, whose main offices are in Houston, has subsidiaries that include hotels, oil and gas producing companies, paper mills, mines, real estate concerns, office buildings and a dude ranch. During World War II, a shipbuilding subsidiary constructed more than 350 combat craft for the Navy.

## Native of Texas

Mr. Brown, a native of Belton, Tex., attended the University of Texas and became a partner in the company in 1914. He had been president since 1929.

He was a vice president of the Highland Oil Company, a director of the City National Bank of Houston, the Eastern Transmission Corporation, the Armco Steel Corporation and the Brown Securities Corporation. He also belonged to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

On June 20 Brown & Root received a five-year contract, estimated to be worth \$43,600,000, from the National Science Foundation to drill a hole at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. The plan, called "the Mohole Project," envisages drilling through some five miles of the earth's crust, down to the outermost part of the core, or mantle of the earth, which is called the Moho (short for Mohorovicic discontinuity).

The award has since run into considerable technical criticism, and the United States Senate recently attached a proviso to the foundation's appropriation ordering it not to spend the funds pending a full report on the contract.

## Austinite To Speak At WAL Ladies Forum

Mrs. R. Max Brooks of 4 Niles Road has been invited to be a member of the "Ladies' Forum" at the American Institute of Architects Convention May 7-11 in Dallas.

The forum, first to be sponsored by the AIA, will be held Monday, May 7, at 2 p.m. in the Junior Ballroom of the Statler Hilton Hotel, with Mrs. Robert Ward Cutler of New York City as chairman. She is the former Miss Morene Parten of Austin.

Mrs. Cutler has stated that the purpose of the forum will be to stimulate programs on the local level, rather than to form a national organization. Talks will be on "How to Form an Auxiliary" and "How to Improve Auxiliary." Mrs. Brooks will speak on the preliminary steps in founding the Austin Auxiliary, and will give specific recommendations to architects' wives who are contemplating organizing this type of league.

Mrs. Brooks, who plans to attend the convention with her husband, a partner of the architect firm of Brooks and Barr, is a charter member of the Women's Architectural League of Austin, which she helped to found in 1953. She served as president in 1959-60, and is at present chairman of the Education Committee. She has cited that the multi-purpose of the local WAL is to advance the architectural profession; to create greater public interest in the profession; and to promote friendship and unity within the group.

Mrs. Hugo Leipzig, current president of the Austin WAL, has

been invited to take the minutes of this first forum of its kind, which will be published and mailed to the 45 existing leagues throughout the nation.

Mrs. Cutler was founder and first president of the New York Women's Architectural Auxiliary, the only group formed for the purpose of raising architectural scholarship funds. The auxiliary movement started in California with the founding of the East Bay chapter.

The New York auxiliary will host a coffee on Tuesday morning, May 8, in the Cutler and Urbahn's suite of the Statler Hilton Hotel, for the auxiliary presidents, public relations or press representatives of each league. Mrs. David C. Graeber, publicity chairman of the WAL of Austin, will be a guest.

The forum will also include Mrs. Reginal Roberts of San Antonio; Mrs. Harold Calhoun of Houston; and Mrs. A. B. Swank Jr. of Dallas.

Among the members of the local WAL who are also making plans to attend the Dallas convention are Mrs. Philip D. Creer; Mrs. Howard Barr; Mrs. Arthur Fehr; Mrs. Leonard J. Lundgren; Mrs. Edward Maurer; Mrs. Richard Swallow; Mrs. Louis Southland; Mrs. Kelly R. McAdams; Mrs. Hubert Crume; Mrs. Bartir D. Riley; Mrs. Robert Leon White; Mrs. Louis Page; and Mrs. John G. Flowers, wife of the executive secretary of the Texas Society of Architects.



Mrs. R. Max Brooks, center, slated to speak in Dallas on a ladies' forum at the American Institute of Architects Convention, discusses plans here with two other members of the Women's Architectural League of Austin, who have also been invited to participate in the convention activities. Mrs. Hugo

Leipsiger, right, president of the local WAL, will take the forum minutes, and Mrs. David C. Graeber, publicity chairman, will be a guest at a coffee honoring auxiliary presidents, public relations or press representatives of each league.

American-Statesman/UPI

*The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 29 Apr 1962: C13.*

### MRS. NETTIE L. LEWIS

Mrs. Nettie Lockart Lewis, 84, of 4 Niles Road, died in a local hospital Saturday. She was a member of a pioneer Houston family, a member of Christ Episcopal Cathedral in Houston and niece of one time Governor Frank Lubbock.

Survivors include two sons, Edward L. Lewis of Detroit, Mich., and Hugh Lewis of Dallas; one daughter, Mrs. Albert P. Jones of Austin; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday in Houston at Christ Episcopal Cathedral with the Very Rev. J. Milton Richardson officiating. Burial will be in Forest Park Oaklawn.

## Garden Party's Ready— But What's t' Weather?

By KAY POWERS

At 4 Niles Road, the garden was set Friday afternoon for one of the prettiest parties of the season. Under Mary Wood's skilled direction, pink yuccas and purple grapes blossomed among pastel pink tablecloths, hurricane candles waited for twilight.

Everything was in readiness for Albert and Nettie Jones to introduce their friends of longstanding, Bishop and Mrs. Hamilton Hyde Kellogg of Minnesota, to a hundred of their Austin friends.

Then Nettie called the weatherman — and the news was not so good. Have you ever tried to move a party of this size inside just ahead of the raindrops?

picture of a car with a girl in it—and looked the car over first!" exclaimed an awed high school senior . . . Ella Gayle Wood spotted a white beauty with bold red interior, crowded "That's the prettiest thing I ever saw," and refused to budge until Sam said they'd buy it. At 4 p.m. Friday it was theirs.

**GADABOUTING:** It was cocktails at home and then off to Green Pastures for a wonderful dinner for the Dr. John Bickleys and guests Thursday night. Among the many out-of-townners (in for Dr. Bickleys' two-day insurance seminar) these local faces spotted: Ned Price and wife, the Durward Manfords, Dr. and Mrs. Hampton Snell, Martha and Banks

*The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 10 Mar 1963: A10.*



*Powers, Kay. The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 18 Apr 1964: 24.*



**BEAUTIFUL GARDENS SURROUND THE BRICK HOME OF MRS. ALBERT P. JONES, RIGHT**  
Visitors are Mrs. Ben H. Parrish, left, and Mrs. Walter Caven (Staff Photo)

VISITORS ARE MRS. BEN H. PARRISH, LEFT, AND MRS. WALTER SAWYER (SEAT FIVE),

# Niles Road Garden on Pilgrimage

The elegant garden of Mr. and Mrs. Albert P. Jones at 4 Niles Road is one of five to be featured in the 11th annual Pi Beta Phi House and Garden Tour next Sunday.

The garden is described as a place of serene beauty by Mrs. James T. Sawyer, publicity chairman for the traditional benefit. "It is a perfect complement to their lovely Georgian style home." The house was built in 1934 with Staub and Rather of Houston as architects. The exterior of white painted brick

is accented with black shutters and unusual iron work.

Landscape architect Pat Fleming of Houston, designed the yard on different levels, each with its own interest and charm.

North of the driveway is a formal topiary garden featuring yaupon holly, viburnum and gold dust. An outdoor entertainment area, located behind the formal garden, has centers interest on a long brick wall and fireplace lined with large pots of aspidistra.

Topiary tubs of sheared ligustrum sit on the back porch that overlooks a garden of white azaleas and camellias. The dramatic focal point of the white garden is a big oak covered with ivy.

Clipped hedges and jasmine and a fountain are incorporated in the garden. The south area is in pink, with pink azaleas blossoming against a natural fence of assorted plantings.

The public is invited to visit the garden between 2 and 6 p.m. March 30. Other homes and gardens to be shown are those of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Finch, 3312 Duval; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray, 3 Niles Road; Dr. and Mrs. Walter Sjoberg, 1103 Belmont Parkway; and the Pi Beta Phi House, 2300 San Antonio, where refreshments will be served and a bake sale held.

Tickets are \$1.25 for adults and 25 cents for children and may be purchased at any of the homes on the day of the tour or from any Pi Phi

alumna.

Proceeds will benefit the Junior Helping Hand Children's Home, the Settlement Club Home, and the Great Smoky Mountains Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, the national Pi Beta Phi philanthropy.

In charge at the Jones' garden will be Mrs. Walter Caven, assisted by Mrs. Ben Parrish. General chairman of the tour is Mrs. Allen Searight, assisted by Mrs. Ralph Peterson, Mrs. Madison Mills, Mrs. B. C. Downing, Mrs. Clifford Mowery and Mrs. James T. Sawyer. Mrs. William A. Penn is president of the Austin Pi Beta Phi Alumnae, the sponsoring group, and Miss Margaret Snider is president of the Junior Alumnae Club.

*The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 23 Mar 1969: E5.*

Permits

Herman Brown

4 Niles Rd.

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