

WICHITA FALLS CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
 WICHITA COUNTY HERITAGE SOCIETY
 SURVEY FORM

NAME OF SITE: _____ ADDRESS: 1612 Buchanan

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Subdivision Floral Heights Block 75 Lot 5-8

PRESENT OWNER: Scott Hunter, Jr.

and MAILING ADDRESS: same

CATEGORY: District _____ Building x Structure _____ Site _____ Object _____

ORIGINAL USE: residential PRESENT USE residential ZONING _____

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Two-story brick residence; irregular shape although center core is 2-story square with 1-story extensions to front and 2-story extensions to rear; various roof lines including hip, gable, and flat; loggia covers entrance; single front door flanked by long, narrow windows; port-cochere; tall chimneys.

MATERIALS: wall brick roof tile

CONDITION OF EXTERIOR: excellent

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: none discernible

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE/TYPE AND SIGNIFICANCE: Elements of Prairie style.

SIGNIFICANT PERSONS AND EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH SITE: Built 1919-21 by Mr. & Mrs. Martin D. Rowe; bought by Tom Hunter in 1930; now owned by son. See research sheet.

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS: Part of scene in residential area; part of strip of large dwellings.

CURRENT TAX ASSESSMENTS:

Year	Land	Improvements	Total
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

PRESENT DESIGNATION: _____

RECOMMENDED DESIGNATION: National Register _____ Registered Texas Landmark _____
 Local Landmark _____

If within a district: Significant _____ Contributing _____ Compatible _____ Intrusion _____

OTHER COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS: Example of house that should be designated local landmark if requested by owners. Extremely well documented.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: See research sheet.

PHOTO DATA: Roll 9 Frame 32

RECORDED BY: Ellen Beasley Date March, 1982

Much of the information above may be transferred directly to survey cards of the Texas Historical Commission. The following information would need to be added, using the THC computer codes, to complete the State cards:

COUNTY: _____ PERIOD: _____

CITY: _____ STYLE: _____

DATE: _____ THEME: _____

CODED SITE NUMBER: _____

EB 8/81



X X

261

Research sheet: Survey of the City of Wichita Falls

Name of property: Address: 1612 Buchanan
City Tax #: Addition: Floral Heights Block: 75 Lot: 5-3

Present Owner: Scott Hunter, Jr.
and address:

Year of construction: (as estimated in the city tax records)
1922 (first listed in the City Directory)
1921 (estimated from deed or tax records)
1921 (other sources - appraiser, 1930)
construction began 1919, oral recollection of Vera Hunter

Chain of title:

Owner	Volume	Page	Date of transaction	Price	Other
Floral Hts. Realty to Mrs. Eula L. Carver	51/454		2/19/1910		

E. B. Carver to T. B. Noble	53/157		3/21/1910		
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T. B. Noble to M. D. Rowe	113/210		1/20/1919		
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Martin D. Rowe et ux (Irma Pipes Rowe)	273/202-27		9/10/1926		With other neighborhood owners, further restricted property.
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John T. O'Donohoe & First Nat'l Bank	308/265		4/7/1930		\$42,565.61 Both bought interest from Rowe. O'Donohoe was bank trustee.
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Tom F. Hunter et ux (Vera Scott Hunter) Tom Hunter lived there until his death in 1953. She lived there until her death in Mar, 1980.	307/533		6/6/1930		\$36,500. Pd. 5,000. down 3,000. per mo. (6%) thru May 1931.
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E. Scott Hunter et al (Vera Helen Hunter Morales, Barbara H. Crumpler, Nancy H. Stone)	1291/182		5/7/30	cons. 10.00	
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Scott Hunter et ux (Ann Cox Hunter)			3/18/31	cons. 10.00	
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Other information about the property or the people associated with it:

Sidewalk imprint (SE corner) I.H. Roberts, Contractor, W.F. Tex, 3/18/21 = date for sidewalk.

Sources:

Recorded by: Ann Cox Hunter

Date: 4/2/81

Tom F. Hunter

Born 2/23/1890, in Wise County, Texas, near Decatur. According to an article in the W. F. Times by Raymond Brooks, Hunter did not attend public school until age 13, after which he finished the eighth grade in eighth months. Later he attended Polytechnic College in Ft. Worth and East Texas Teachers College. While in school, he supported himself by pressing clothes and selling Bibles. After earning a teachers certificate, he taught and then was principal of the school at Brownfield. Brooks says he married Vera Scott in Wichita Falls, but she said they met when she was a student in Brownfield school and he was teaching there. Her family lived in the country and she lived in the same boarding house in Brownfield that Tom did, in order to go to school. She earned her room and board by work she did for the landlady.

After studying law, Hunter moved to Wichita Falls to practice. Until 1919 they lived at 1902 Buchanan, in a house that is no longer there. Mrs. Hunter said they kept a cow tied outside, and she went out in the yard to watch for her husband to return home on the streetcar that ran down Kemp Street from downtown. After 1919 they resided at 1211 Polk in a house built by Mrs. Hunter's brothers, Elmer and Andrew Scott, who were carpenters. At first Nelson & Hunter officed in the Anderson-Bean Bldg., but in 1918, T. F. Hunter moved his office to 206 First National Bank. He gradually moved into the oil business, with offices in Wichita Falls and Houston. (according to Brooks). At one time he was president of the North Texas Oil and Gas Association.

Hunter made four unsuccessful bids for the governorship of

Texas. The first was in 1932 against Ross Sterling. In 1934, Hunter was one of three contestants from Wichita Falls. He edged out Charlie McDaniel and wound up in a run-off primary against former Governor James V. Allred. He also ran against Allred in 1936. Hunter's fourth attempt was against W. Lee O'Daniel in 1933. Prior to that, he once ran for Wichita County attorney, but was defeated by Bruce Greenwood.

Hunter considered himself a friend and champion of everyday poor people. He advocated strict regulation of utilities, control of state water and power resources, strict laws against public officials taking retainers from lobbying interests, and a strong centralized governor's cabinet. He went to Washington to speak for the independent oil operators at odds with the major companies and advocated laws separating oil producing, pipe-lining, refining, and retail marketing businesses.

Tom Hunter died in 1953, after a lengthy illness. He had been in semi-retirement since his first heart attack nine years before.

Vera Scott Hunter

Born in Nov., 1895 in Durwood, Indian Territory, she attended Hardin College. An active volunteer, she was president of the SaFB Community Council for three years, a charter member of Floral Heights Methodist Church, a member of the Red Cross Board, Woman's Forum, and Lawyer's Wives.

She was pictured in the W. F. Times in a parka after she and her husband made a trip to Alaska to hunt. She killed a record moose and two mountain sheep, game rarely brought down by female hunters.

Her children were Thomas Frank Hunter, Jr., Edmond Scott

House at 1612 Buchanan

The Floral Heights Realty Company set aside an addition on Feb. 10, 1910. This property included the houses on Buchanan, Tilden, and Grant between 10th Street and Avenue H. The restrictions placed on the area at that time required that all sales should include at least two whole lots for the location of one residence. No residence should cost less than \$3,000.; though it might have an additional garage and servant's house.

The house at 1612 Buchanan was constructed by the original residents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin D. Rowe. They purchased the lot in 1919 and moved into the house in 1921. They owned lots 5-8 of block 75. In September, 1926, the property owners in the neighborhood, desiring to further restrict the area, reaffirmed that the area should remain purely residential, with no public buildings or businesses built there. They added that residences should cost at least \$5,000., exclusive of servant house and garage; and they again specified that only one residence might be built on two or more lots. Among those present and signing were Martin and Irma Pipes Rowe. Mr. and Mrs. Rowe also owned lots 1&2 in block 86. Scott Hunter believes he heard that the house cost \$54,000. to build.

Martin Rowe was in the oil business with his brothers. According to Scott, they owned five drilling rigs. In 1929-30 their business folded and the bank foreclosed. Scott says that they could have sold the rigs and recovered, and the other brothers were willing to do so, but M.D. would not, as he believed the sum offered for the rigs was not enough. Ironically,

the steam powered rigs were soon obsolete and had to be sold for scrap. Anyway, John T. O'Donohoe and the First National Bank paid Rowe \$42,565.61 for the house on April 7, 1930.

O'Donohoe was a trustee of the bank, and he and the bank each bought an undivided $\frac{1}{2}$ interest.

On June 6, 1930, Tom F. and Vera Hunter bought the house from John T. O'Donohoe et al for \$36,500. Mr. Hunter paid \$5,000 down and was to pay the rest at 6% at the rate of \$3,000 per month through May 31, 1931. Scott recalls that his father missed some of the payment dates. He was 13 at the time and remembers going to see the house with his parents while the Rows were in it. Mrs. Rowe said that the groove on the right side of the fireplace in the den was where Mr. Rowe put his feet as he sat in his chair. So apparently, Mr. Hunter had agreed to buy the house from the bank before it was ever deeded to the bank. The family moved in in August, after many trips back and forth so Vera could sew drapes, etc. Helen was three but she can remember moving day too.

Mary Hunter says that much of the furniture came from a store (Frier?) where Mr. Hunter went to have it furnished. This supposedly included the Emil Hermann paintings.

The house was originally heated with coal. Soon after they moved in the Hunters converted it to fuel oil heat. Scott remembers working on the heating system all summer. There was a tank for oil buried south of the garage. The house was later converted to gas. Air conditioning was added after Mr. Hunter died in 1953, but three of the upstairs ceilings fans and most of the light fixtures are original and remain. About

the time of Mr. Hunter's death, the children bought Mrs. Hunter a new washer and a dryer and located them in the basement. Prior to that, laundry was done in the washhouse attached to the garage. In 1957 the kitchen was remodelled by a Mr. Morgan who lived on Polk Street next door to Frank and Loudell Hunter. Before that time, the kitchen had a separate room containing a big four door refrigerator, the motor for which was below in the basement. That room was in the corner of the kitchen, with the wall coming out about where the refrigerator is now. Apparently, the bookcases upstairs were also added about 1957.

When Mr. Hunter got sick, he slept in the den downstairs. A carpenter came and built a wood platform extending the floor level at the base of the stairway to the door of the porte cochere. Small sized doors were purchased for entrance to the basement and bathroom and the toilet was elevated to the level of the floor at that time. In addition, Mr. Hunter was furnished with a metal tub for bathing down there. The week after Mr. Hunter died in 1953, Scott had the extra floor torn out. About 1957-8, Mrs. Hunter redid that bathroom with the yellow tile and recessed the wall enough for the cabinet and mirror.

The sidewalk imprint on the SE corner indicates that sidewalks were laid by I.H. Roberts in March, 1921. Originally there were numerous trellis-like fences dividing the back yard to the north and west. A frame storage building was originally a chicken coop.