

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

**1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: Texas Pool  
Other name/site number: NA  
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

**2. Location**

Street & number: 901 Springbrook Drive  
City or town: Plano State: Texas County: Collin  
Not for publication:  Vicinity:

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ( nomination  request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ( meets  does not meet) the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:  
 national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 2/20/19  
Signature of certifying official / Title Date  
Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register.  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:** Private

**Category of Property**

	building(s)
	district
	site
x	structure
	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation = swimming pool

**Current Functions:** Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation = swimming pool

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** OTHER: swimming pool

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Concrete; Ceramic Tile

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 6 through 7)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria:** A

**Criteria Considerations:** NA

**Areas of Significance:** Entertainment/Recreation

**Period of Significance:** 1961-1969

**Significant Dates:** 1961

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): NA

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): NA

**Architect/Builder:** C&P Development

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 8 through 18)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheet 19)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): NA

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property:** 0.9960 acres

### Coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

Latitude: 33.012316° Longitude: -96.721897°

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The legal boundary as recorded by the Collin County Central Appraisal District is "Abs A0014 Thomas Archer Survey, Tract 4, 0.996 Acres."

**Boundary Justification:** The nomination includes all property historically associated with the Texas Pool.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Janet Vermillion Moos, R.N., Jessica Woods, Janira Teague, and Henry Elmendorf of the Texas Pool Foundation, and NR Coordinator Gregory Smith

Organization: Texas Pool Foundation

Street & number: 2000 Westlake Drive

City or Town: Plano State: Texas Zip Code: 75075

Email: foundation@texaspool.org

Telephone: 972-881-8392

Date: March 2018

## Additional Documentation

**Maps** (see continuation sheets 20 through 24)

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets 25 through 38)

**Photographs** (see continuation sheets 39 through 43)

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## Photograph Log

Texas Pool  
Plano, Collin County, Texas  
Photographed by Henry Elmendorf, January 2018 (except as noted)

Photo 1  
Entrance to the Texas Pool, including brown city provided sign, Plano Conservancy provided wayside sign, Little Free Library, and Little Free Pantry, facing west

Photo 2  
The Texas Pool and entrance and changing rooms to the left, facing south

Photo 3  
The Texas Pool, facing west

Photo 4  
The Texas Pool, facing east

Photo 5  
The Texas Pool, looking northeast

Photo 6  
The Texas Pool, looking southeast

Photo 7  
The Texas Pool pumphouse with a Texas Flag mural, located on the north end of the property above the Panhandle, facing northeast

Photo 8  
The full perspective of the Texas Pool, looking northeast

Photo 9  
Mural on the men's changing room, facing southeast

Photo 10  
Mural on the women's changing room, facing south

Photo 11  
Texas Pool from above  
Photographed by David Woo for the *Dallas Morning News*, 2017.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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## Description

The 1961 Texas Pool at 901 Springbrook Drive in Plano, Collin County, Texas, is a private neighborhood swimming pool shaped like the State of Texas. The nominated property includes three contributing resources: the pool; the changing rooms building; and the pumphouse. The 168,000-gallon-capacity saltwater concrete pool ranges in depth from one to ten feet and is lined with concrete stucco with decorative tiles along the top of the walls. Minimal changes have been made to the pool and its setting, which retains a high degree of integrity. The owner plans to recreate tiles on the pool floor that originally featured names of Texas cities.

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Plano is in southwestern Collin County, Texas, approximately 17 miles north of downtown Dallas. The Texas Pool is on the west side of Springbrook Drive in the Dallas North Estates neighborhood, three-fourths of a mile west of highway US 75 and 1.35 miles southwest of the Plano Downtown Historic District. The nominated property is situated on the west side of Springbrook Drive in the Dallas North Estates suburban residential development, which was built in the early 1960s by Herbert Hunt and Hunt Properties.

The pool area is surrounded by a security fence with wood and metal sections. Set within a plain concrete deck, the Texas Pool has a 168,000-gallon capacity, with a depth ranging from one to ten feet. The pool is lined with blue concrete stucco with two rows of square tiles along the top of the walls and is bordered by red bricks laid perpendicular to the water, which provides a clear outline from viewed from above. The pool features two slides and one standard-height diving board, along with the original concrete circular "island" platform. The pool's shape is not a geographically precise representation of the state boundary but is nevertheless an unmistakable representation of the general shape of Texas, rotated approximately 45 degrees to the northwest.<sup>1</sup>

- The pool measures approximately 100 feet (El Paso to Orange) by 90 feet (Dalhart to Brownsville).
- The diving board is anchored in Oklahoma panhandle, with the cantilevered end over the northern part of the Texas panhandle (Borger vicinity)
- The circular concrete island, approximately 12 feet wide, is said to represent the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, but is further west, centered closer to Cisco.
- One slide is anchored in southeastern New Mexico, dropping riders between Odessa and Monahans, while the other slide is anchored in the Mexican state of Coahuila east of Big Bend, and drops riders in the vicinity of Del Rio.
- Steps leading into the pool are placed in El Paso County, and along the gulf coast at Chambers and Jefferson counties.
- An elevated lifeguard's chair is positioned in the Gulf of Mexico in the vicinity of Matagorda.
- The shallow end is in South Texas.

The property includes two other contributing properties: the original entrance and changing rooms (building) to the southeast, and the pump house (structure). The L-plan building is primarily made of CMU walls with wood awnings and roof structure. It contains one locker room on each side of the central entrance and a small concession stand. On the far side of the pool sits the pump house, a wood structure hidden behind fencing and a Texas Flag mural.

Over the years many small changes have been made to the property, but all original structures remain and are still in use. Though documentation has been lost over the years, it is known that the interior pool surface has been re-plastered and originally there were tiles on the bottom with different city names, positioned to their approximate location within the state, removed at an unknown date. Plans are in the works to recreate the original tiles and restore the pool to its

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<sup>1</sup> A geographically accurate outline of the state superimposed on an aerial photograph of the pool indicates that the shape of the pool is stretched several feet to the east and west. See figure on page 27.

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original look. Around the pool, wooden decks have been installed for lounge seating. In 2010 a Texas flag mural was painted on the side of the pump house, and in 2016 certified Cherokee Nation artist Molly Brewer painted a Gulf Coast mural of marine and sea life on the locker room walls.

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## Statement of Significance

The Texas Pool in Plano, Collin County, Texas, was built in 1961 as part of the Dallas North Estates residential neighborhood envisioned by Herbert Hunt and the William Herbert Hunt Trust and developed by Harry Stoner of Summit Development. The upscale neighborhood originally consisted of 3-to-5-bedroom homes priced between \$10,700 and \$15,000 and was advertised as a new community development for “comfortable family living” with a “Texas size and Texas-shaped swimming pool for residents.” The pool opened on May 29, 1961, and in 1962, was sold by the Hunt Family Trust to the nonprofit Dallas North Community Club for \$1.00, with a stipulation requiring the pool to remain open as a recreational facility. The Texas Pool is the earliest known example of a swimming pool shaped like the state of Texas and represents the adoption of the state shape as a highly-recognized icon in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century that continues to be applied to everyday objects in a growing list of categories. The property is nominated to the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment and Recreation at the state level of significance as an important and distinctively Texan recreational amenity built to serve a new residential neighborhood in a burgeoning suburb of Dallas, which also marked a new phase in the trend of applying the Texas shape to an ever-increasing variety of objects, including large structures.

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## Plano, Texas

Prior to the 1840s, the area around Plano was inhabited by members of the Caddo tribe, but conflicts with Anglo settlers resulted in the removal of the Caddo from the region by the mid-1850s. The community of Plano originated in the early 1840s, with many early settlers migrating from Kentucky and Tennessee to the Blackland Prairie of Collin County. In 1846 William Foreman bought Peters Colony land from Sanford Beck and settled a half-mile northeast of Plano. Foreman erected a sawmill and gristmill that were soon in demand by his neighbors and help attract new settlers to the area. Mail service was established around 1850 and Dr. Henry Dye dispatched an application to Washington D.C. requesting the name of “Fillmore,” in honor of the President of the United States. The proposed name was rejected, the name “Foreman” was declined by William Foreman, and Dr. Dye then suggested the name “Plano,” which the postal service approved.<sup>2</sup> Although raising livestock was the primary business in the county, more of the populace began farming the rich black soil. Community members built schools and churches, and local businesses began to prosper. In the closing years of the 1850s, growth was steady, but this halted with the onset of the Civil War. With the arrival of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad in 1872, the city started on its way to new growth, as Plano was the first depot by rail for those entering Collin County from the south. By 1874, the population reached over 500. The city was incorporated in June of 1873 and Plano began to flourish as a trade center. The population in 1900 was 1,304.

Through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Plano economy relied on surrounding farms and ranches, but the establishment of interurban railway lines radiating out from Dallas resulted in trade growth and economic prosperity for surrounding rural villages and towns. Interurban lines facilitated trade and transportation, contributing to the regional influence of Dallas and the growth of its satellite cities. After the interurbans were abandoned, much of the right-of-way was used for new highways, which facilitated major population increases in suburban locales. In the 1950s and 1960s the northern Dallas suburbs were booming. With the addition of large industry complexes such as the sprawling 300-acre Texas Instruments campus at US 75 and I-635, new neighborhood developments sprouted along the route of the recently improved US Highway 75. In the early 1960s, Plano’s population began booming with the addition of “planned communities” to provide desirable amenities for the families of Dallas’ growing industries in a suburban setting. Between 1960 and 1970, the population exploded from 3,695 to 17,872, an increase of 383%. The 2010 population was 259,841, making Plano the 69<sup>th</sup> largest city in the U.S.

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<sup>2</sup> “Plano, Texas” by Shirley Schell and Frances B. Wells in *New Handbook of Texas*, 1996. Dr. Dye understood the word *plano* as meaning “plain” in Spanish (describing the surrounding terrain), but it actually translates as “flat.”

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## Dallas North Estates Development

The Texas Pool is located within the Dallas North Estates development. Dallas North Estates was envisioned in 1959 by Herbert Hunt, who came from a family of oil and gas wealth and established himself as a big player in Dallas' energy development. The head of the family was H.L. Hunt, who by 1948, was estimated to have a wealth of \$600 million and growing (\$6.1 billion in 2017 currency). Hunt's companies and family have grown, as has their prominence in Dallas and certain circles worldwide. Hunt had fifteen children, several of whom have carried on the family business and legacy. His son William Herbert Hunt, who financed the North Dallas Estates development, has been part of Hunt Oil, Hunt Petroleum Corporation, Hunt Energy, and Placid Oil, and founded Petro-Hunt LLC. Along with his brothers he tried to corner the world's silver market and in 1988 filed for bankruptcy. In 2012 Petro-Hunt sold its stake in the Bakken Shale to Halcòn Resources for \$1.45 billion and Herbert Hunt gained 25% ownership of the company.

To create a better first impression of Plano when driving north from Dallas, Hunt acquired land in west Plano and directed the William Herbert Hunt Trust to guide the development of a deluxe neighborhood. North Texas' first planned community was named Dallas North Estates to cash in on the more well-known city to the south. The community was slated to be 1,700 acres of homes, schools, churches, and parks. The neighborhood consisted of 3-to-5-bedroom homes priced between \$10,700 and \$15,000, and the community was advertised as a new community development for comfortable family living, boasting a "Texas size and Texas-shaped swimming pool for residents."<sup>3</sup>

The builder of Dallas North Estates was George Chapman of Chapman Homes, who had just finished a 3,000-home development, Casa View, in Dallas near White Rock Lake. The developer was Harry Stoner of Summit Development, who went on to develop Briarwood Estates on Plano's east side, and C&P Development.

According to the *Plano Daily Star-Courier* newspaper, the final plat was approved in September of 1960 and work began at once. By October all 153 lots of the first unit were already sold, just as construction began on extension of utilities and the pouring of concrete roads.<sup>4</sup> In February 1961 the newspaper reported that "Plano Is Third In Per Capita Building in 1960," according to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Dallas North Estates was credited as a major player in even higher potential growth in 1961. That same month plans were approved for the paving of Alma Drive, which today stretches all the way from Richardson, through Plano and Allen, and ends in McKinney. In March of 1961 the first three model homes opened, and in the following months newspapers started advertising the model homes with a tempting offer that anyone who visits them would receive a pass to swim in the Texas Pool between June 4 and June 30.

## Social History of Public Swimming Pools

Social segregation is the most persistent theme in the history of swimming pools. At first, use divided along class, gender, and generational lines...when these divisions mostly evaporated during the interwar years, racial separation took their place.<sup>5</sup>

Mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century municipal swimming pools in the United States were generally austere public baths meant to provide a healthier alternative to bathing in filthy rivers and lakes. Municipal governments in the north encouraged

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<sup>3</sup>"New Community Development Begins At Plano." *McKinney Weekly Democrat Gazette*, 8 June 1961, [www.newspapers.com/image/49178053](http://www.newspapers.com/image/49178053).

<sup>4</sup>"153 Lots Included In First Unit; N. Texas First Planned Comm." *Plano Daily Star-Courier*, 1961.

<sup>5</sup>Wiltse, Jeff. *Contested Waters: A Social History of Swimming Pools in America*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2007, page 209. Wiltse covers the origins and evolution of swimming pools in the northeast United States, while providing an excellent context that can be applied to Texas and other southern states as well.

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laborers of different races and nationalities to bathe in these facilities, which were segregated only by gender. Class divisions rather than racial or ethnic divisions determined who used these pools: middle and upper-class men general kept away, while women of all classes and races were left with very limited options for bathing facilities. During the progressive era women gained more access to public pools, but gender division was strictly enforced with separate pools or limited swim times. By late 1890s public pool design and use aligned in rising interest in fitness culture, physical exercise, and athletics, and pools built during the period were designed to facilitate lap swimming and races, with adjacent facilities for other forms of exercise. Many municipal pools established entrance fee schedules to exclude working class swimmers or limit their use to free hours only. Pool rules often stressed use for sport and exercise, but not for play nor bathing.

Beginning in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many cities built public pools in areas identified as slums, often with children's play spaces to "brighten the lives of working-class youngsters, curb juvenile delinquency, weaken social antagonisms, and inspire patriotism."<sup>6</sup> Meanwhile, public pools began to transform into resort-like facilities in city parks. In 1913, the city of St. Louis opened the gigantic Fairgrounds Pool, the first gender-integrated public pool in the northern U.S., and not coincidentally, the first to be explicitly and officially racially segregated.<sup>7</sup> The Fairgrounds Pool had a beach-like character that limited its utility as an exercise facility but emphasized its function as a social and recreational setting for men, women, and families. In keeping with public decency standards of the era, the pool staff enforced strict attire and behavior rules. Use of municipal pools in the north had previously reinforced class and gender divisions but not racial distinctions, but this changed in the 1920s, when pools began to welcome the comingling of white men and women, to the exclusion of all African Americans. The pools promoted family and community sociability, and earlier concerns about intimacy between men and women were redirected towards African American men.

Following national trends, Texas saw a boom in the construction of public swimming pools in the 1920s, all of which were racially segregated. Fort Worth had no public pools in 1920, but four were built by 1927, including one for African Americans. Dallas opened three public pools in the 1920s, including the 64,000 square foot Lake Cliff Pool, but the smaller (5000 square foot) and more austere Hall Street Pool was the only option for African-American residents.<sup>8</sup> While the onset of the Great Depression halted building of new public pools, the New Deal fueled a tidal wave of pool construction, with hundreds financed and built through agencies such as the WPA, which built 27 pools in Texas. These new public pools were often much larger in size than previous pools, and featured vast wading areas, grassy lawns for non-swimmers, and sometimes even sandy beaches. Round, oval, and irregularly-shaped pools were not conducive to lap swimming, and instead promoted leisurely use, which was reinforced by their placement in parks alongside other recreational facilities. While pool segregation was strictly enforced nationwide (not just in the south), distinctions between white ethnic groups and classes began to evaporate as more adults and children flocked to the public pools.<sup>9</sup>

The swimming pools of the interwar years served as community centers in large and small cities nationwide. These pools were designed along the lines of leisure resorts, where men and women mingled, wearing swim suits that shrank in bodily coverage at a precipitous rate beginning in the 1920s. Historian Jeff Wiltse stresses that "gender integration was the watershed in the history of municipal pools...Sexuality became the magnet that drew men and women together in public pools," as pools became places to watch and be seen, often through formal pageants and beauty contests.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Wiltse, 56.

<sup>7</sup> Wiltse, 78.

<sup>8</sup> Wiltse, 90-91.

<sup>9</sup> Wiltse, 91

<sup>10</sup> Wiltse, 212.

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At midcentury, swimming pools transformed again, as African-Americans fought and won court cases to gain full access to all public facilities, while white Americans abandoned public pools. Wiltse argues that “desegregation was the primary cause of the proliferation of private swimming pools that occurred after the mid-1950s.”<sup>11</sup> Swimming pools proved to be the most sensitive of such facilities, because the trends of the previous decades led towards gender integration in swimming pools, bringing men and women in closer contact and with less clothing than in other public areas. In 1953, a federal court ruled that Kansas City must integrate its public pools, a decision that the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review, thus affirming it. The appeal provided by the city did not mince words regarding the primary concerns: “Women with scant swimming attire have an aversion to intermingling in a swimming pool with male strangers of another race and we respectfully submit that no mandate of court will obliterate this trait of human nature.”<sup>12</sup> The 1954 Supreme Court ruling of *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka* that decided that public school segregation was unconstitutional further opened the door to challenges to segregation in all types of public facilities. While many cities saw violent reactions to integrated pools, some cities such as Marshall, Texas, chose to sell off its public pool to a private owner. Other cities in the deep south shut down all public pools and parks rather than integrate.<sup>13</sup>

Desegregation of public pools nationwide led whites to desert public pools, join private pool clubs, or build backyard pools, the construction of which proliferated after the mid-1950s, mostly in the suburbs.<sup>14</sup> Civil rights laws only applied to public accommodations, so class and race exclusion was achieved through residency requirements and membership fees, and “many pool associations mandated that most or all members had to live within a certain distance of a club or within a particular subdivision.”<sup>15</sup> Wiltse further notes that “the underlying cause of the private pool boom, however, was middle-class Americans’ desire to recreate within more socially selective communities...Joining a pool club ensured that other swimmers would be of the same social class and race. Installing an at-home pool ensured that the other swimmers would be limited to family and friends.”<sup>16</sup>

### The Texas Pool

The plan to build the Texas Pool and surrounding park was announced in late January 1961. According to city council minutes published on March 2, the permit to build the pool was initially denied because the site had not been platted.<sup>17</sup> Construction of the pool by C&P Development was underway by March 16. The *Dallas Morning News* featured a photo of the nearly-completed pool with an article about the “planned city” that “started from a Plano wheatfield.” The article further described the extent of the planned North Dallas Estates development, to include “large shopping areas, industries, apartments, medical center, recreational facilities, school, churches, and residential districts.” Residences were reported to cost in the range of \$10,700 to \$15,000, with brick exteriors, one or two garages, three to five bedrooms, and optional air conditioning.<sup>18</sup>

The Texas Pool opened to the public on Memorial Day, May 29, 1961. A contest to guess the 168-thousand-gallon capacity awarded the winner a 10-foot boat, trailer, and motor from Plano's Lone Star Boat Co. The Chamber of Commerce held the annual Miss Plano contest at the Texas Pool, with 17 contestants vying for the crown. According

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<sup>11</sup> Wiltse, 2.

<sup>12</sup> “Who Can Swim Where,” *Dallas Morning News*, October 25, 1953.

<sup>13</sup> “Marshall OK’s Pool Sale to Maintain Segregation,” *Dallas Morning News*, August 28, 1957. The city of Fort Worth also explored the possibility of selling its public pools in the mid-1950s. “Weather Vane,” *Dallas Morning News*, November 13, 1955.

<sup>14</sup> Wiltse, 182. When middle class Americans abandoned municipal pools, cities downgraded the importance of such pool.

Municipal pool construction was renewed in the 1960s but was often limited to small pools in urban areas, with expressed goals to combat crime and juvenile delinquency. Municipal pool construction again slowed in the 1970s.

<sup>15</sup> Wiltse, 195.

<sup>16</sup> Wiltse, 183.

<sup>17</sup> “Minutes From City Hall.” *Plano Daily Star-Courier*, 1961.

<sup>18</sup> North Dallas Estates Will Be Shown Today,” *Dallas Morning News*, May 28, 1961.

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to plan, the pool was restricted to residents after the first summer season. The following year in 1962, the Texas Pool was sold by the Hunt Family Trust to the nonprofit Dallas North Community Club for \$1.00, so long as it was operated as a recreational facility. In 1963 non-resident memberships were sold \$30.00 per household, equivalent to \$240.00 in 2017, and were available to families living outside of the Dallas North Estates neighborhood.<sup>19</sup> The Texas Pool is not only notable as a large draw to a neighborhood that established west Plano, but at that time Plano had no public swimming pool for residents to use, so simply having a neighborhood pool was a huge attraction. Plano's first public swimming pool opened in 1971.

Unfortunately, there is a gap in the Texas Pool's history from the mid-1960s to the 1990s, but the pool was maintained, and the original structures stayed intact throughout this time. The height of the pool's success was in the 1990s when prospective pool members camped out overnight in hopes of securing one of the 325 family memberships. These memberships supported and sustained the pool and made the pool an exclusive private swim club for only those wealthy enough to afford annual membership costs. By the early 2000s membership numbers had plummeted due to changes in societal values and neighborhood demographics, and the pool was in danger of closing. In 2006 the pool was changed from a chlorinated reservoir to a saltwater system, making it unique once more, but memberships were still low. By January of 2007, Board of Directors President Matt Dorsett started addressing the possibility that the pool would not open that year and that the property might be sold to the City of Plano. The Board of Directors sent this information to the pool members to inform them of the financial situation and reached out to media outlets in a plea to collect enough memberships to open that summer. Though this action worked and the pool opened that summer, there was almost no profit to complete seriously needed maintenance work.

After the 2007 season ended the Board of Directors once again struggled with how to increase memberships and planned for the seemingly inevitable sale of the property to the city. In an April 12, 2008 email from President Matt Dorsett to board member Janet Moos, Dorsett confirms that "the city of Plano is willing to consider 'purchasing' the property by paying off our remaining debt. Their plan would be to demolish the pool and make the property part of the linear park." It is at this point that a shift occurs in the trajectory of the Texas Pool's fate, coinciding with the involvement of Janet Moos in the actions of the Board of Directors. Moos brought a renewed desire to promote the pool as a historically and culturally significant landmark in Plano. She rallied the board to seek new avenues of promotion, facilitated by new technology such as Facebook and Twitter. With the economic downturn the country was experiencing the board began advertising the Texas Pool as an affordable "staycation" alternative.

The Texas Pool Foundation, a 501(c)(3), created in May 2013, worked parallel to the Dallas North Community Club that had managed the pool since 1962 until December of 2016. At that time the Dallas North Community Club dissolved and all assets and operations were assumed by the non-profit in January 2017. The foundation's mission is to preserve the Texas Pool as a landmark, to support the community through outreach and events, and to provide access to swim safety education, swim lessons, and swimming opportunities for the general public, underserved, underprivileged, and special needs populations of Collin and Dallas Counties. In 2017 the Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation designated the Texas Pool as a local landmark that was worthy of recognition and provided a wayside sign.

### **Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Segregation in Plano**

The Texas Pool's construction ties in with a socially significant time in Texas' history. The pool was in the process of being built at a time when African-American Texans were staging sit-ins at Dallas diners and department stores in protest of racial segregation. Desegregation of public recreation facilities came slowly to Texas and only after years of gradual progress. In 1953 Dallas barred racial segregation for its golf courses, yet municipals swimming pools

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<sup>19</sup> "Dallas North Pool Names Directors." *Plano Daily Star-Courier*, 1963.

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remained highly segregated, with all but a few pools entirely off-limits to African Americans.<sup>20</sup> According to Jeff Wiltse, “between 1950 and 1970, millions of Americans chose to stop swimming at municipal pools” due to civil rights conflicts and the growing pains of desegregation in suburban areas.<sup>21</sup> Cities in Texas faced backlash for not providing swimming pools for black citizens, and some white citizens voted to sell pools to private owners so that their segregation could be maintained.<sup>22</sup> This is significant to note as the Texas Pool was constructed with the intention of being a privately-owned and operated swimming pool, exclusive to those that could either afford a house in Dallas North Estates or the membership price, and no state or federal regulations that prevented explicit exclusion of African Americans. The homes in the neighborhood were priced at \$10,700 to \$15,000 (\$87,000 to \$122,000 in 2017 dollars; housing prices in Plano have far outpaced inflation). The timing of the construction of the Texas Pool and its situation within a brand new, upper middle-class neighborhood, speaks to social preferences of the time and how the “amenity” of a racially exclusive swimming pool could be an appealing factor for Plano’s primarily white incoming residents of the 1960s. It wasn’t until the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that legal segregation ended in public places and banned employment discrimination based on race, and not until the Fair Housing Act of 1968 that discrimination based on race was banned in the sale, rental, and financing of housing. Plano public schools integrated in 1964.

### Development of Plano since 1961

The establishment of Dallas North Estates greatly influenced the development of Plano as a growing suburban city. In 1960 Plano was the “fastest-growing city in Collin County”<sup>23</sup> and the third in per capita building, with Dallas North Estates being credited as a major contributing factor.<sup>24</sup> 1960 USGS maps show no development west of US 75, and the 1968 photo-revised map shows few buildings and developments apart from the Dallas North Estates subdivisions, which are the dominating feature of west Plano at that time. By 1973, maps reveal that other neighborhoods were established, but the expanded Dallas North Estates development is by far the largest feature of west Plano, and alone is comparable in size to all of the new developments on the east side. The USGS maps definitively show that Dallas North Estates and other Hunt Properties were the leaders in development of the west side of Plano and an important catalyst for population growth within the city in the 1960s. In a 1962 article in the Plano *Daily Star-Courier*, a representative of Hunt Enterprises talked about potential development of thousands of acres in Plano with hopes to “accommodate a population of 100,000 in the Plano area in the years to come,” and explained that “the Hunt interests already have invested much money, time, and effort in their development in this city.”<sup>25</sup>

In 1960 the population of Plano was 3,695, but in the following decades the growth of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and the success of several large high-technology firms and other businesses began to make their influence felt on the local economy. By 1970 the population reached 17,872, as Plano became one of the fast-growing cities in Texas and the United States. In 2010 the population of Plano topped 259,841.<sup>26</sup> According to the Collin County Appraisal District, Dallas North Estates currently includes 2,158 properties across 15 subdivisions.<sup>27</sup> Other Hunt properties in west Plano included Pitman Creek Estates, Pitman Creek North, Dallas North Research Park, Dallas

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<sup>20</sup> Martin Kuhlman and Alwyn Barr, “The Civil Rights Movement in Texas: Desegregation of Public Accommodations, 1950-1964” (PhD diss., Texas Tech University, 1994), 95.

<sup>21</sup> Jeff Wiltse, “Swimming Pools, Civic Life, and Social Capital,” in *A Companion to Sport: Contested Space and Politics*, ed. by David L. Andrews et al. (New Jersey: Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 2013), 299.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*, 101.

<sup>23</sup> Plano Public Library System, “Plano City Timeline,” 2011.

<sup>24</sup> “Plano Third In Per Capita Building in 1960.” *Plano Daily Star-Courier*, 1961.

<sup>25</sup> “Immediate and Long Range Plans Of Hunt Interests Told Jaycees.” *Plano Daily Star-Courier*, 1962.

<sup>26</sup> “Plano Population Growth Historic Trends 1900 to 2010.” *City of Plano*, [www.plano.gov/documentcenter/view/645](http://www.plano.gov/documentcenter/view/645).

<sup>27</sup> “Dallas North Estates Property Search.” *Collin County Appraisal District*, [www.collincad.org/propertysearch?situs\\_street\\_suffix=&subdiv=Dallas%2Anorth%2AEstates&isd%5B%5D=any&city%5B%5D=any&prop\\_type%5B%5D=MH&active%5B%5D=1&year=2018&sort=G](http://www.collincad.org/propertysearch?situs_street_suffix=&subdiv=Dallas%2Anorth%2AEstates&isd%5B%5D=any&city%5B%5D=any&prop_type%5B%5D=MH&active%5B%5D=1&year=2018&sort=G).

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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North Regional Shopping Center and Commercial Area (Dallas North Shopping Center), Dallas North Industrial District, Creekwood Apartments, and the since-demolished Springbrook Apartments.

### **The Shape of Texas**

Renderings of the geographic outline of Texas are pervasive in the Lone Star State, adorning myriad flat surfaces from print advertisements to buildings, and represented in a variety of tangible items from bracelet charms to giant stock ponds on private ranches. This phenomenon is familiar to Texas residents and is quickly recognized by even short-term visitors. In 1995 historian and geographer Richard Francaviglia published “The Shape of Texas: Maps as Metaphors,” in which he described the use of the Texas shape in various media and traced the trajectory of its use through the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

The map of Texas has become a popular icon that instantly says “Texas” as well as, or perhaps better than, “Traditional” Texas popular imagery, such as the Lone Star, armadillos, oil wells, ten-gallon hats, and longhorn cattle...the map of Texas is used to advertise thousands of Texas-owned and -operated businesses, products and services. The average Texan sees the map outline hundreds, perhaps thousands, or times every day—on license plates, billboards, food product advertisements, and jewelry. The map outline helps integrate time (history) and place (geography) in the popular mind...<sup>28</sup>

The shape of Texas is perhaps the most-recognized state shape, partially due to its distinctive characteristics, and partly the result of its popularity as a Texas symbol. The phenomenon continues to generate national attention, as in the September 2016 *New York Times* article “The Texas-Shaped World,” in which Houston Bureau Chief Manny Fernandez reflects on “the singular, curiously drawn image that somehow encapsulates, with a few right angles and big bends, a state of 27 million people.” Fernandez notes how the Texas shape is “carved onto the sides of highway overpasses and on T-shirts, and in magazine ads. You can eat waffles shaped like Texas at the Vickery Café in Fort Worth and the Texan Diner in Haslet, and you can dive into the Texas-shaped pool in Plano...”<sup>29</sup>

### **Creation of the Texas Shape**

The shape of Texas is the product of the state’s physical and political geography, beginning with a series of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century land claims, followed by various international treaties, acts of congress, and supreme court decisions. The Texas boundary is 2,842 miles long, a measurement that includes the arc of the gulf coastline and the larger river bends, but if one counts the smaller meanderings of rivers and tidewater coastline, the border is 3,822 miles long.<sup>30</sup> Four line segments drawn along the west, north, and east sides of the panhandle, and along the 32<sup>nd</sup> parallel east of El Paso, account for 926 miles of the state’s boundary, and thus straight lines represent no more that 32.5% of the state’s total boundary. The combination of straight lines connecting at right angles mixed with the irregular path of the water borders provides the state with its distinctive shape.

The eastern boundary was first established at the Sabine River by the Adams-Onís Treaty between the United States and Spain in 1819, although by the time Spain ratified the treaty in 1821, Mexico declared independence from Spain and refused to recognize the boundary. In 1848 the U.S Congress granted Texas the claim to a boundary extending to the middle of the Sabine River. In 1836 the Republic of Texas declared Texas’ southwest boundary to be the Rio Grande, from its mouth at the Gulf of Mexico to its source (in present-day Colorado), and thence a line drawn to the

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<sup>28</sup> Francaviglia, Richard V. *The Shape of Texas: Maps as Metaphors*. 1st edition. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1995, 55.

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/30/insider/the-texas-shaped-world.html>. Accessed July 30, 2018. The article is illustrated with an aerial photo of the Plano pool. Texas-shape waffle makers are available online through a variety of major retailers.

<sup>30</sup> Texas Almanac, <https://texasalmanac.com/topics/environment/environment>, accessed July 30, 2018.

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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42<sup>nd</sup> parallel (in present-day Wyoming). The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo affirmed the Rio Grande boundary to El Paso as the international boundary, but Texas continued to claim portions of New Mexico until the Compromise of 1850 established the present border.<sup>31</sup> Minor adjustments have been made since then, none of which greatly altered the general shape of the state. The last major challenge to the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma, along the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian in the eastern panhandle, was settled by the Supreme Court in 1930. In 1941 the State of Louisiana challenged Texas' claim to the western half of the Sabine River, an interstate dispute that would not be resolved until the U.S Supreme Court ruled in favor of Texas in 1973.<sup>32</sup>

The Texas shape includes four major elements, described by Francaviglia as “the southern tip, the western point, the northern panhandle, and the northeastern bulge.”<sup>33</sup> As long as most of these components are in place, the shape may be distorted, stretched, bent, reversed horizontally or vertically, and the perimeter greatly simplified or partially deconstructed, yet still be recognizable as Texas.

Texas is not unique among states in having a distinctive shape, and in *The Shape of Texas*, Francaviglia identifies three characteristics of easily recognized state maps that are also commonly used as symbols: *proportion* (wherein horizontality is favored over verticality); *variety* (a limited number of memorable shapes resulting in a combination of straight and curved lines); and *volume* (whereby the line creates a significant mass in which to place information). States other than Texas that fall within these parameters include Iowa, Wisconsin, and Ohio, while states such as California are predominantly vertical and appear to be unstable when viewed in isolation. States with irregular boundaries such as Maryland, Florida, and Idaho are highly recognizable and are often presented with square or rectangular frames or backgrounds. Texas is almost as tall as it is wide, allowing its shape to fit almost perfectly within both a circle and square. This quality affords countless opportunities to employ the shape as a useful graphic device on signage, including the round Recorded Texas Historical Landmark medallion, and square TxDOT ranch and farm route signs (figures, page 29).<sup>34</sup>

### Use of the Texas Shape as a Symbol

The shape of Texas is well suited to serve as a symbol of the state for reasons other than its graphic characteristics, but the widespread adoption of this symbol didn't come about until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1836, the Republic of Texas incorporated the “Lone Star” as the centerpiece of its official seal, which still serves as the official seal of the State of Texas. The abstract star was widely used to market the state and its products through the 1950s, after which its use diminished in favor of symbols such as the state map which, unlike the star, could represent only Texas.<sup>35</sup> While Francaviglia argues that the Texas shape “can effectively symbolize history, identity, and attachment to place,” the form was not generally used as an advertising symbol until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, appearing sporadically until the teens.<sup>36</sup> The increase in its use may be tied to the advent of automobile age, when road maps became essential tools for travelers, and outdoor advertising called for strong graphic images that could be easily “read” by passing motorists. Renewed interest in Texas history and pride in Texas heritage reached a fever pitch in the 1930s during the Texas Centennial, and advertisements in all print media used the shape of Texas to promote Texas products within the state

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<sup>31</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, “Boundaries,” accessed July 30, 2018, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mgb02>. The western boundary resulting from the compromise extended east from El Paso along the thirty-second parallel to the 103d meridian, up that meridian to 36°30" latitude (west panhandle line), and along that line to the 100th meridian (north panhandle line), thence down the 100th meridian to the Red River (east panhandle line). The thirty-six-thirty line was chosen since Texas was a slave state and that line had been established in 1820 as the Missouri Compromise line between slave and free territory in the Louisiana Purchase.

<sup>32</sup> <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/281/109/>; <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-supreme-court/410/702.html>

<sup>33</sup> Francaviglia, 49.

<sup>34</sup> Francaviglia, 34-35.

<sup>35</sup> Francaviglia, 83-85.

<sup>36</sup> Francaviglia, 87.

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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and to the entire nation. In 1936, the shape of Texas was anthropomorphized on a Texas Centennial postcard, in which a rugged albeit awkwardly-rendered cowboy with a Texas torso extends a hand to welcome the world, personified by a short and formally-attired figure with a globe for a head (figure, page 30). Meanwhile, in 1937 the Texas Highway Department placed 23 six-foot-tall Texas-shaped stone welcoming markers at key highway crossing points into the state, giving visitors or returning Texans a first look at the state's distinctive profile upon entering from abroad (figure, page 31).

The widespread use of the Texas map has continued unabated since then, increasing the visibility of the symbol nationally and internationally, and transforming the shape into a true icon. As in the example of other states, the shape found its way onto postcards, glasses, ashtrays, shirts, pillow, and other souvenirs, as well as highway signs, license plates. The Texas shape, however, has arguably been applied to more products than any other state shape, which is attested by entering the term "state-shaped" into an internet image search engine and viewing the results. In addition to being presented within all manner of two-dimensional art forms, including a variety of state tattoos, the shape of Texas is routinely found in a dizzying array of three-dimensional products found within countless Texas retailers (and presumably Texas homes), including ice cube trays, cutting boards, jewelry, trays, single-use plates and cups, cake pans, cast iron skillets, baskets, candies, cookies, tortilla chips, sidewalk pavers, outdoor grills, bottles of tequila, and even a kitchen sink.

### **Texas-Shaped Pools and Bodies of Water**

The largest permanent Texas-shaped things are buildings, swimming pools, and man-made lakes.<sup>37</sup> While buildings of this type are rare, probably due to the physical limitations of the Texas shape when applied to a house footprint, Texas-shaped swimming pools have been documented across the state, with the earliest known example being the 1961 Plano pool.<sup>38</sup> In 1962, the Hilltop Lakes Resort City in Leon County announced plans to build a Texas-shaped pool at its exclusive community, which opened the following year. In 1965 the resort placed ads in newspapers in Texas and Oklahoma, extolling amenities that included the "Hilltop pool that is shaped in the form of Texas...and it's so large you'll think it's almost as big as the state of Texas."<sup>39</sup> State-shaped pools have been partially catalogued by RoadsideAmerica.com, with Texas leading the pack with five.<sup>40</sup> Several large Texas pools have been verified through aerial photos and are included on the table (page 16), but numerous uncatalogued examples of small and private residential pools are known to exist. Advertisements from the *Dallas Morning News* from the period 1979-1984 identified at least six Texas pools in the Dallas area, and Texas-shaped hot tubs have been sold in sizes up to "giant" and "large" since the early 1980s.<sup>41</sup> Suffice to say that while the Texas pool phenomenon is not yet common, the number of such pools is probably growing as the state grows in population and the popularity of the Texas shape shows no sign of abating.

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<sup>37</sup> Ephemeral landscape features such as corn mazes and crop fields have been reported but are not extensively documented. See Sweet Berry Farm, Marble Falls, Texas, which measures approximately 558 feet (30.609824, -98.305023). Texas-shaped pools and bodies of water are inventoried on page 16.

<sup>38</sup> A much smaller decorative garden pool in the shape of Texas was featured in "Lily Pool Shape of Texas Ideal for all Water Plants," *Dallas Morning News*, August 31, 1952.

<sup>39</sup> Actual size: 85 feet. "Fabulous New Resort Center Established Near Normangee," *Mexia Daily News*, July 13, 1962; "Hilltop Lakes advertisement, *Dallas Morning News*, May 9, 1965.

<sup>40</sup> "Swimming Pools Shaped Like States," <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/29044>. Four of the five pools (except for one in Waxahachie) has been verified through other sources. All but the pool at the former South Shore Apartments, 300 E. Riverside, Austin, are extant.

<sup>41</sup> "Spa Jazz" advertisement, *Lubbock Evening Journal*, April 29, 1983.

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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## Conclusion

The earliest-known state-shaped pool was built in Florida for the 1953 movie *Easy to Love*, starring Esther Williams, and since then several have been built in other states, such as an Alabama pool at the Alabama Governor's Mansion and Oklahoma at the Oklahoma Governor's Mansion, both built in the 1970s. Perhaps more than any other state, the distinctive shape of Texas regularly stands on its own as a brand or logo that is recognizable to people all over the world. While it is not the only Texas-shaped pool in the state, this swimming pool is probably the earliest of its type and signifies Plano's growth and dedication to providing an accessible and attractive community in where new families could thrive. Historic recognition of this site further solidifies Plano's significance as not just a commuter city, but a city with its own unique story and significant future. This pool played a notable role in attracting new residents to Plano and establishing the demographics that have persisted through to today: college educated Gen-Xers looking to settle down somewhere affordable and accommodating.<sup>42</sup> Furthermore, the Texas Pool's current ownership seems to be striving to once again establish the pool as an entertaining and historic attraction for North Texas' latest wave of newcomers.

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<sup>42</sup> Atkinson, Jim, "Brave New 'Burbs," *Texas Monthly* 31:9 (2003), 52.

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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**Table 1**

**Large Texas-Shaped Pools and Man-made Bodies of Water**  
 (excluding small swimming pools at private residences)

<b>Location</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Approx. Diameter</b> (in feet, from Dalhart to Brownsville)	<b>Date</b>
Springbrook Drive	Plano	Collin	Swimming Pool	90	1961
Big Texan Motel	Amarillo	Potter	Swimming Pool	49	After 1967
Hilltop Lakes Resort	Normangee vicinity	Leon	Swimming Pool	85	c.1963
Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio	Bexar	Swimming Pool	272	After 1995
Texas Motor Speedway	Fort Worth	Tarrant	Swimming Pool	45	After 1995
South Shore Apartments	Austin	Travis	Swimming Pool	(demolished)	c.1964
Holiday Day Inn Express	Kerrville	Kerr	Swimming Pool	59	After 1995
Marriott Marquis Houston	Houston	Harris	Lazy River Pool	173	2016
Henry William Munson Park	Angleton	Brazoria	Pond	222	After 2004
Private Ranch	Ganado	Jackson	Pond	175	c.2010
Private Ranch	Rockwall	Rockwall	Pond	645	After 1968

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

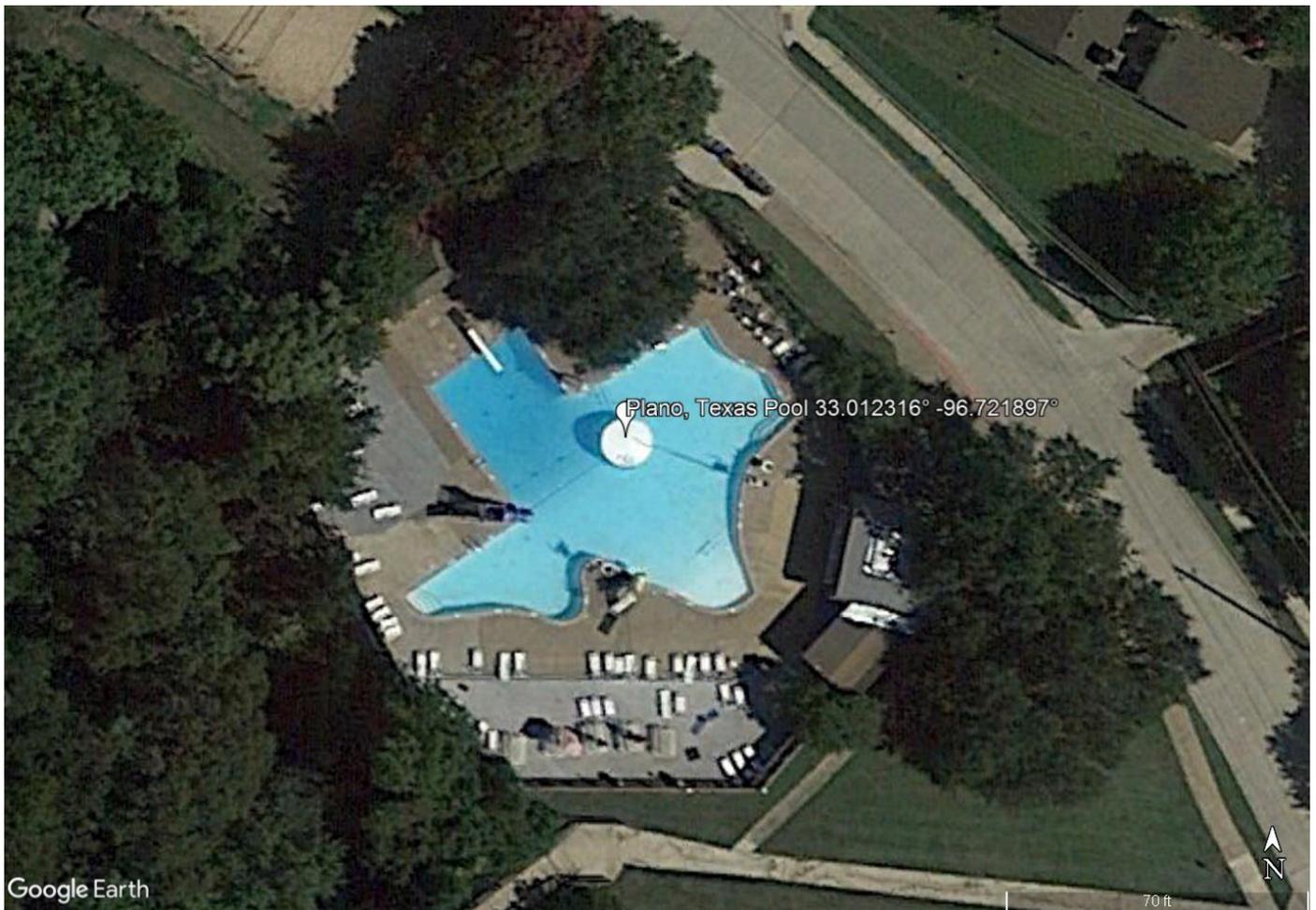
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Collin County, Texas



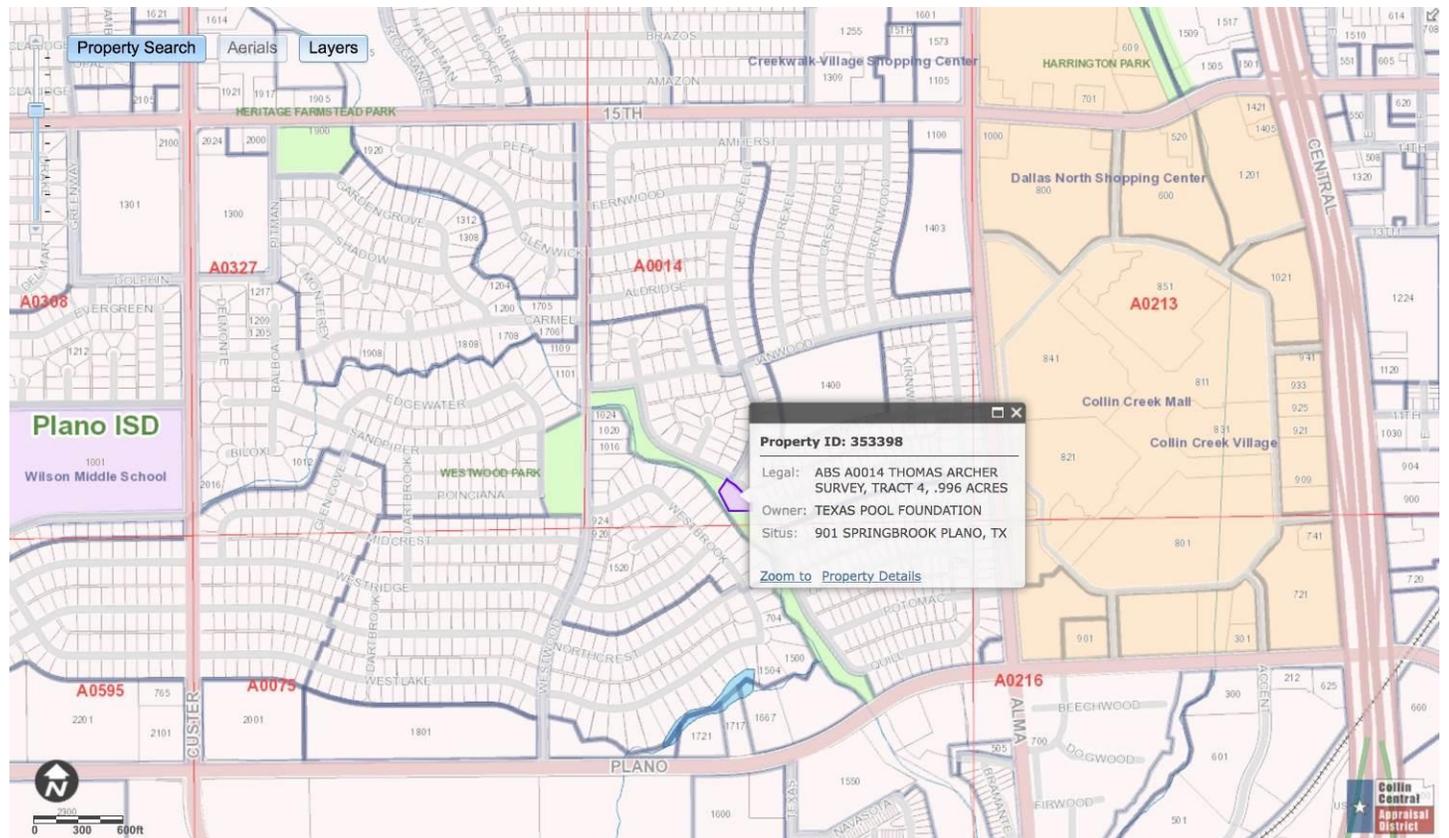
Location Map

Source: Google Earth, accessed April 6, 2018



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

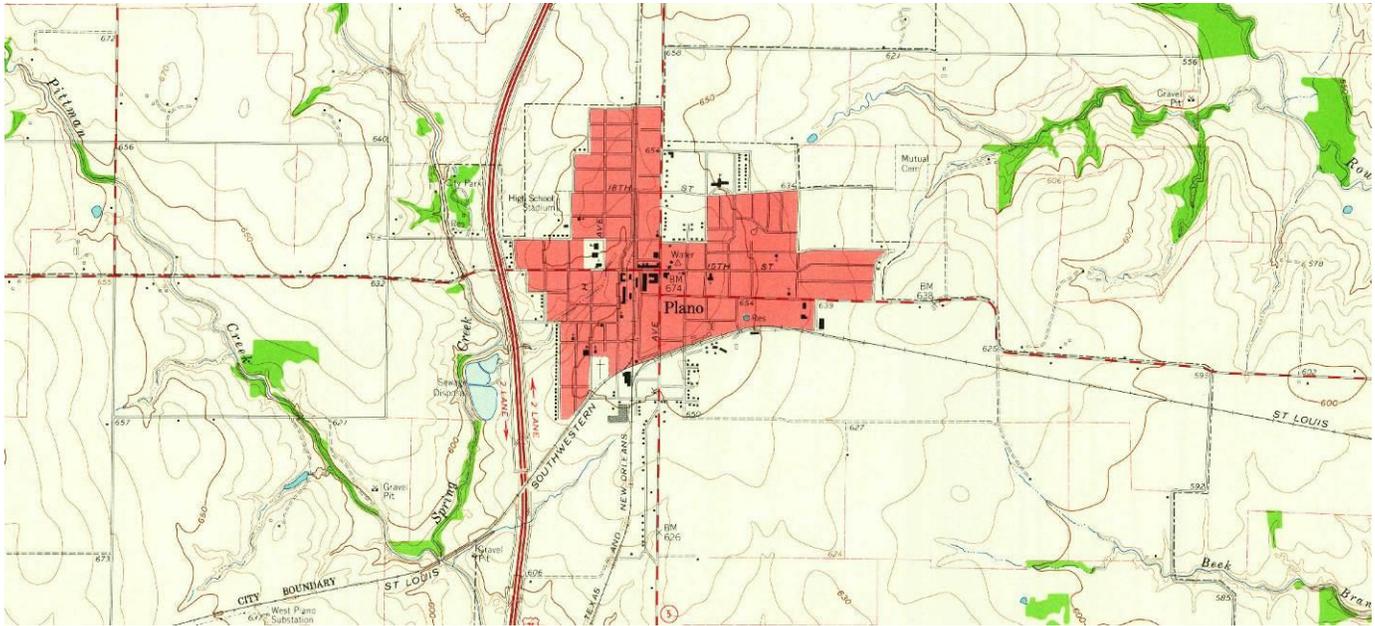
Collin County Appraisal District Map showing the Texas Pool Site location in west Plano



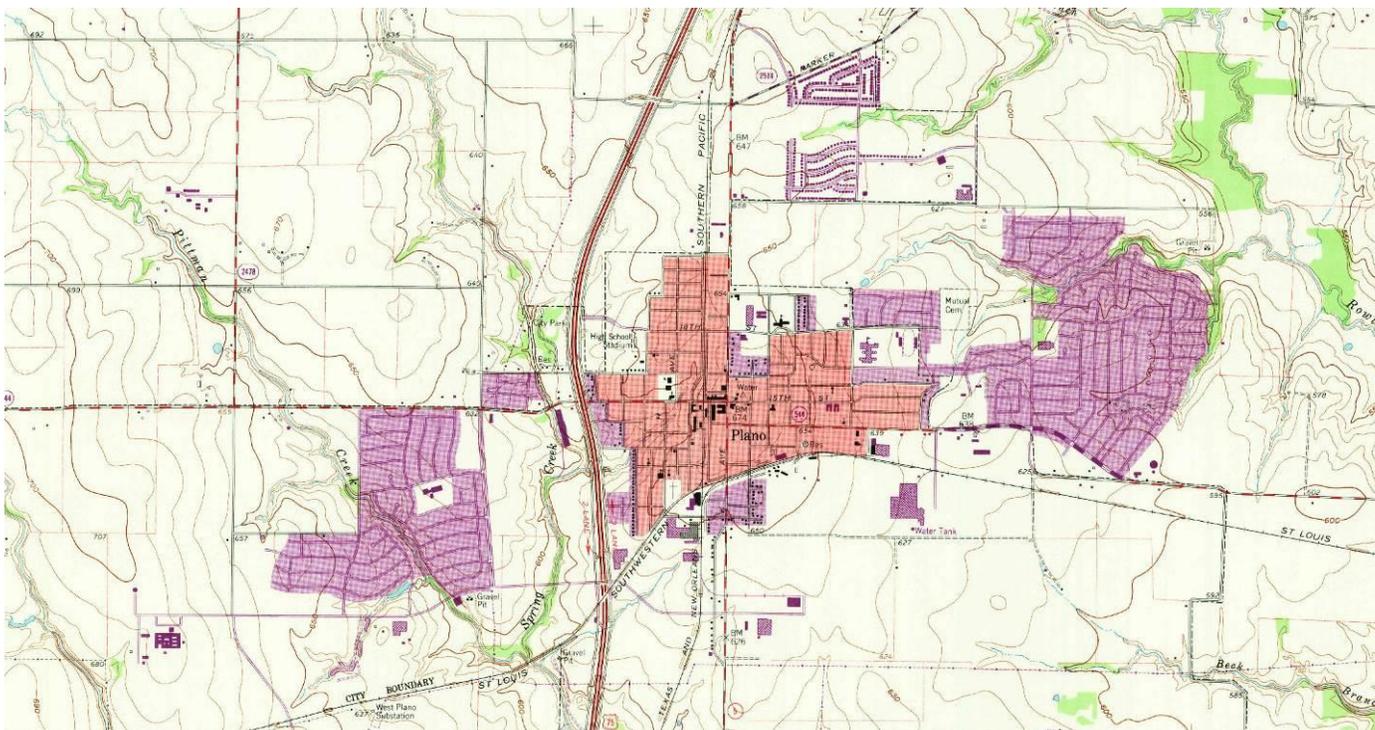


Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

USGS 7.5-minute map showing Plano in 1960 (red) without the Dallas North Estates development



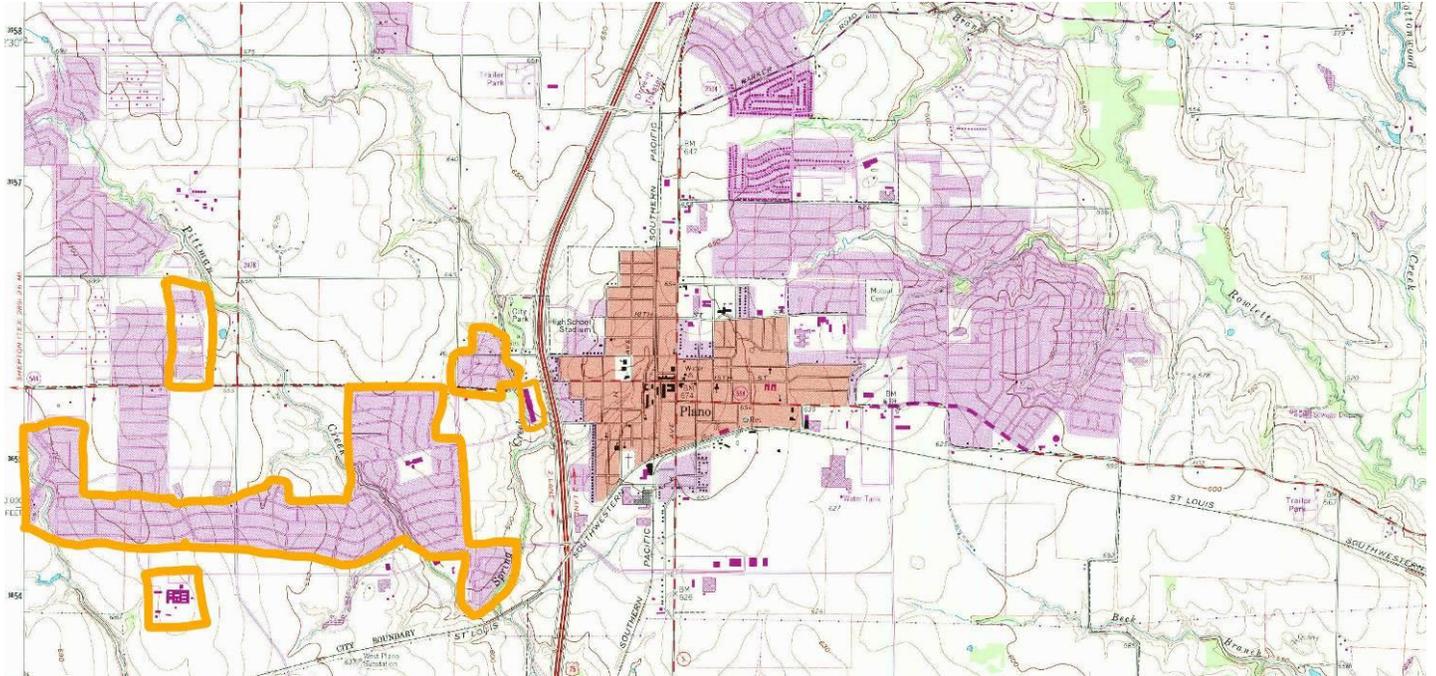
USGS 7.5-minute map showing Plano development in 1960 (red) and by 1968 (purple), including the first subdivisions of Dallas North Estates west of US 75



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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USGS 7.5-minute map showing Plano development in 1960 (red) and growth by 1973 (purple), with all Hunt properties outlined (orange)



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

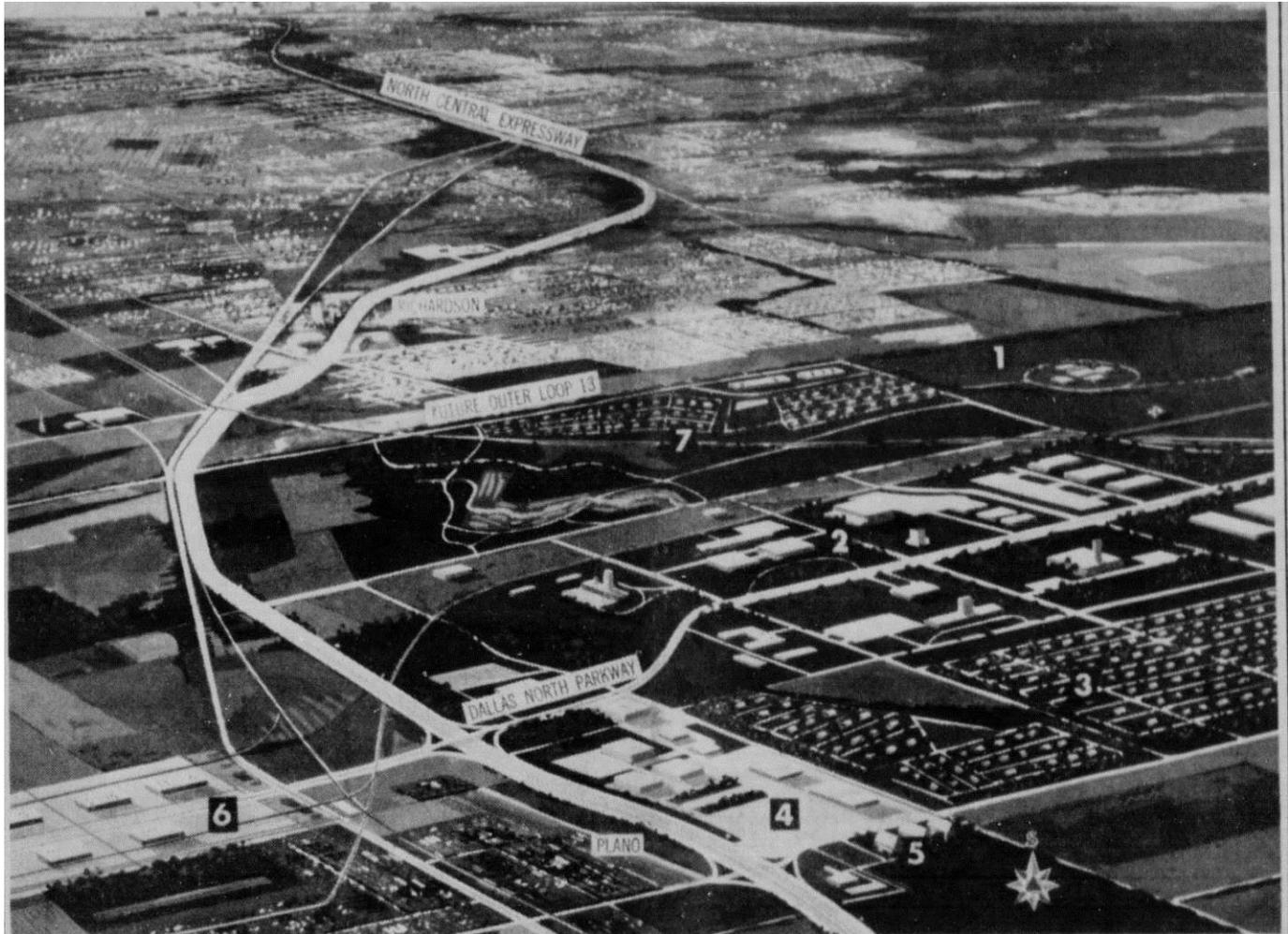
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**US 75 under construction at Plano in May of 1955, facing south.** Note no development west of the Expressway (UT- Arlington Library Special Collections, Squire Haskins Collection, AR447 A2708)



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

**1962 figure showing the extent of Hunt properties in west Plano (Dallas North Estates #3).**  
"3,000- Acre Research Park Announced," *Plano Daily Star-Courier*, September 26, 1962.

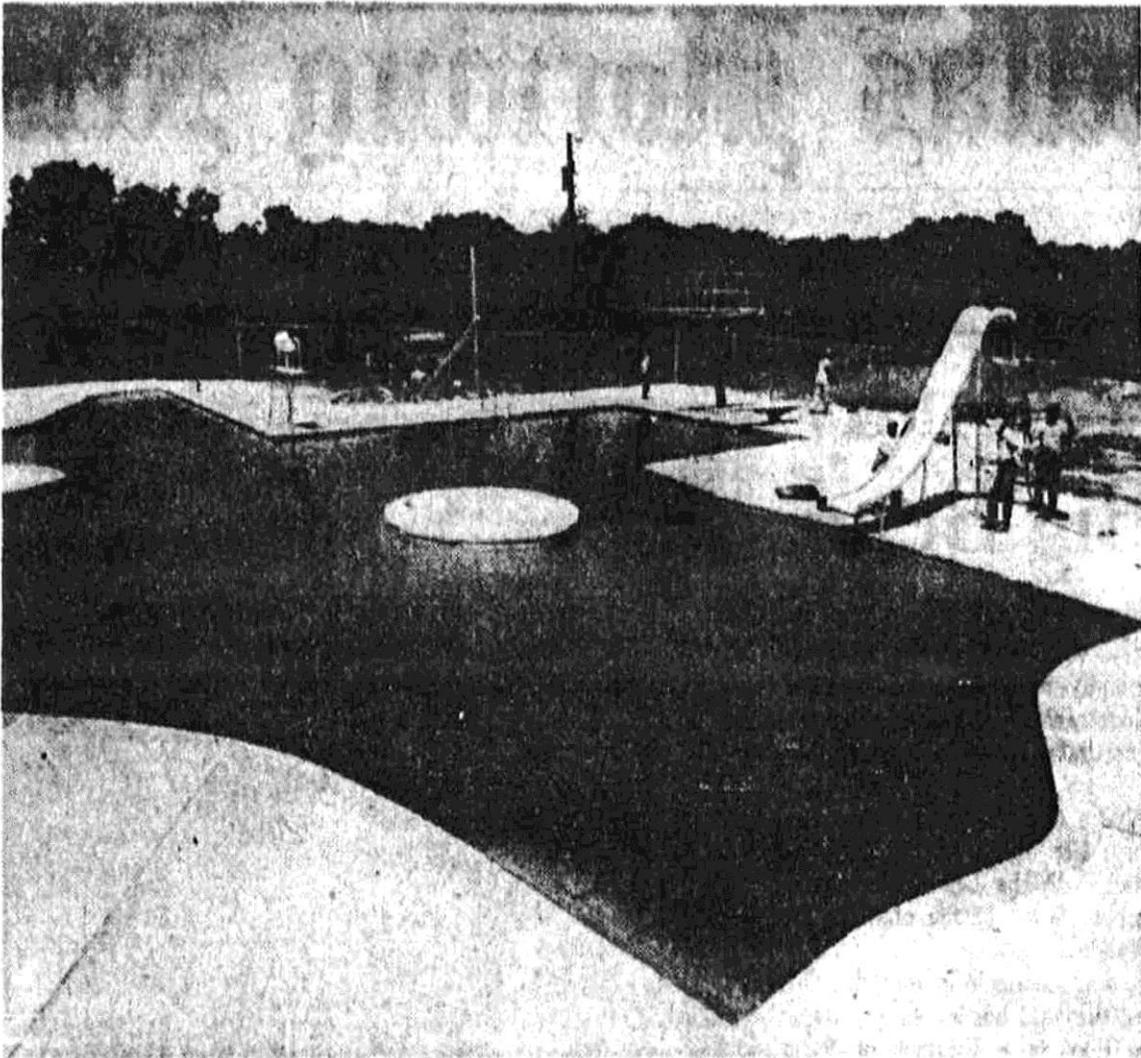


**THIS AERIAL VIEW**, looking from Plano southward through Richardson to Dallas, shows the tremendous scope of the Dallas North metropolitan complex. The figure 1. locates the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest. 2. Dallas North Research Park.

3. Dallas North Estates. 4. Dallas North Regional Shopping Center and Commercial Area. 5. Springbrook Apartments. 6. Dallas North Industrial District. 7. Canyon Creek residential development, country club, and shopping center.

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

*Dallas Morning News*, May 28, 1961.



Workers put finishing touches on a Texas-sized, Texas-shaped pool which will be operated for residents of Dallas North Estates in Plano. A contest to guess the number of gallons

of water it contains starts Sunday, with the winner slated to receive a 10-foot boat, plus trailer and motor. The boat is being furnished by the Lone Star Boat Co., also of Plano.

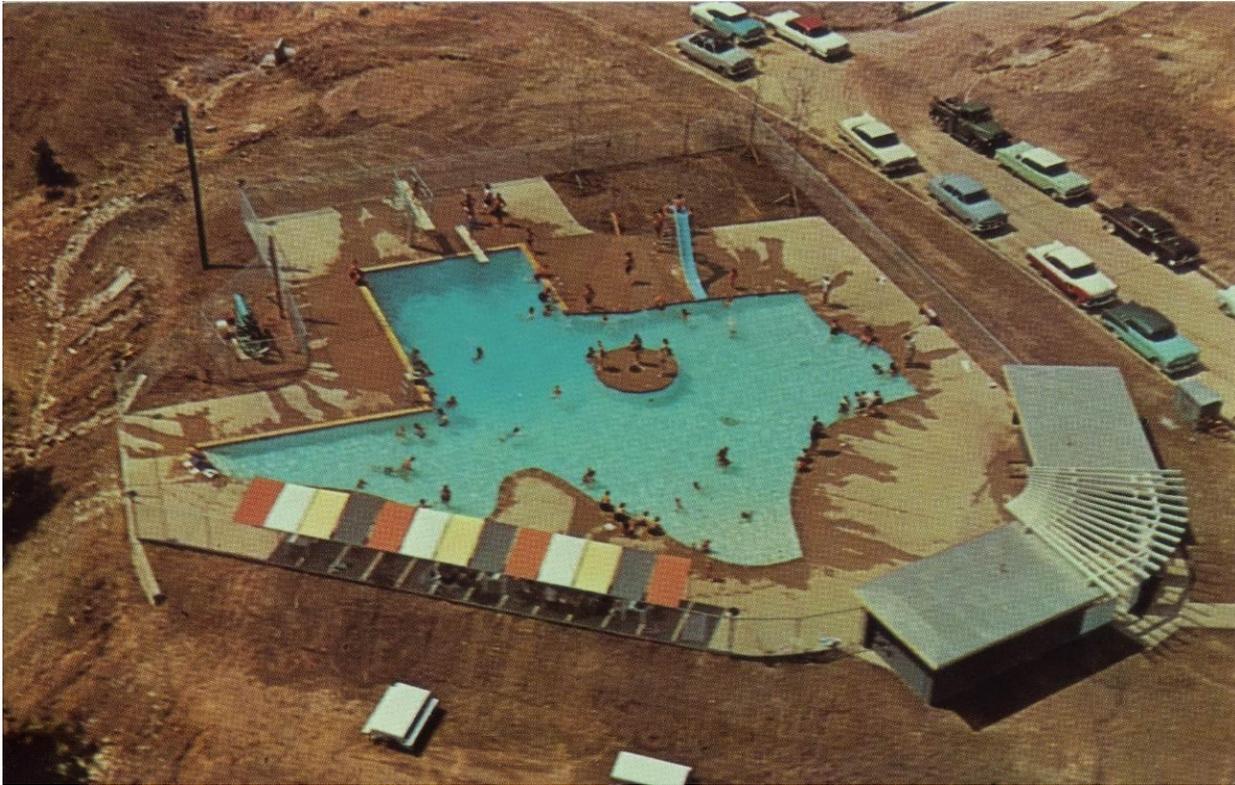
### **PLANNED CITY**

## **Dallas North Estates Will Be Shown Today**

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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**First aerial photograph of the Texas Pool, taken in the 1960s shortly after opening.**



**The Texas Pool in full swing during the summer months**  
*Plano Magazine, May 2015.*



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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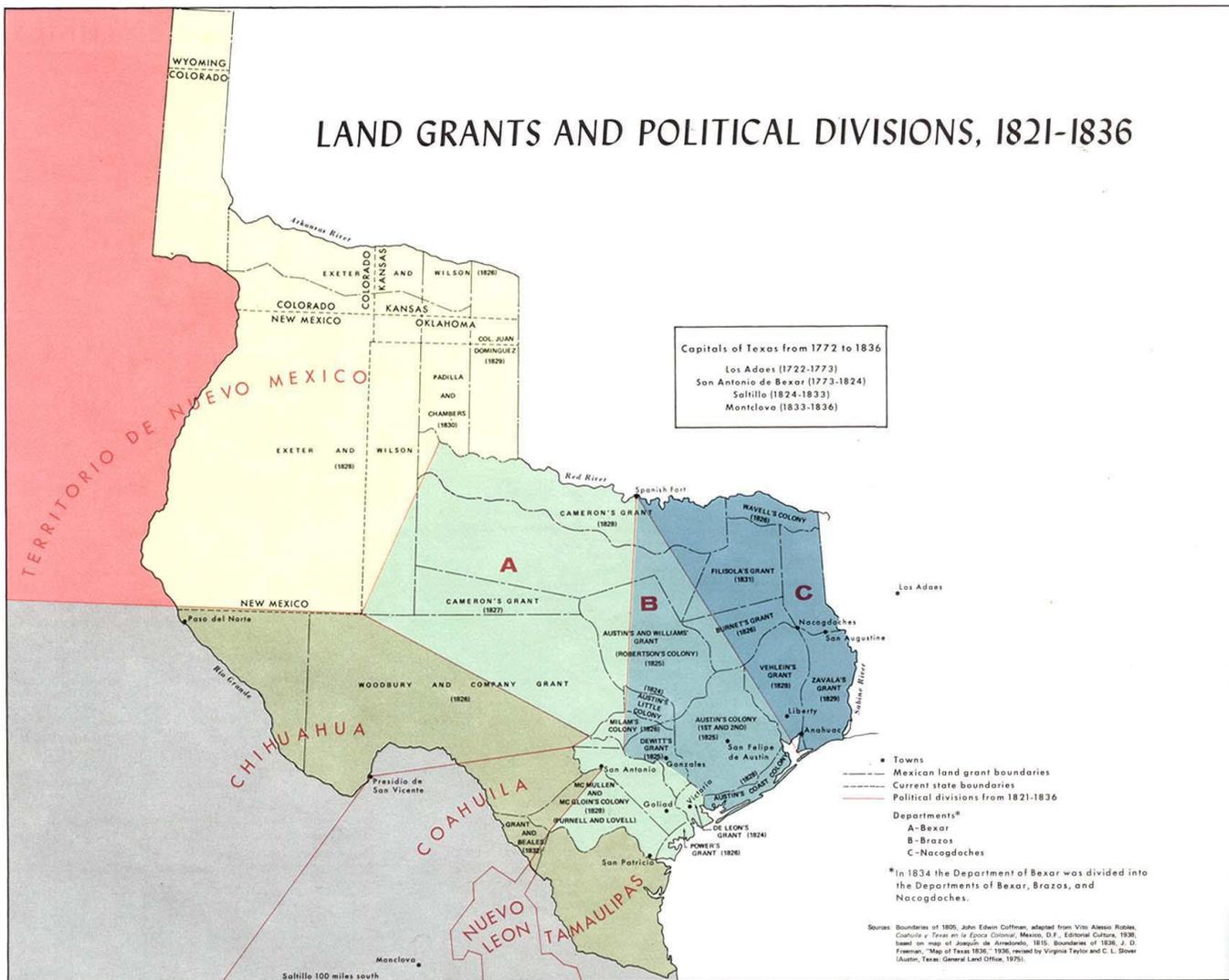
**Google Earth aerial view with actual shape of Texas superimposed**



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

### Historic shape of Texas, with present boundary

[http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/atlas\\_texas/texas\\_land\\_grants.jpg](http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/atlas_texas/texas_land_grants.jpg)



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Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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**Texas within Circle and Square**

From *The Shape of Texas*, by Richard Francaviglia, 1995.



**Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) Medallion**

<https://hiveminer.com/Tags/rthl>

**Texas Farm Road Highway Sign**

[http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Farm-to-market\\_road](http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Farm-to-market_road)



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

**Texas Centennial Postcard, c.1936.**

<https://flashbackdallas.com/2016/06/09/dallas-texas-centennial-exposition-vs-fort-worth-1936/>

**Texas Centennial Promotional Ad** (*Southwestern Rail Way Journal*, March 1936).

From *The Shape of Texas*, by Richard Francaviglia, 1995.



**TEXARKANA** *Visit EL PASO!*  
**BROWNSVILLE** *See AMARILLO!*

**TEXANS!**  
PLAN TO TRAVEL  
TEXAS DURING—  
**CENTENNIAL  
YEAR**

**VISIT THESE INTERESTING  
CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATIONS**  
(March 13 through  
April 28. Revised  
to March 1)

**MARCH 13-22—FORT WORTH** — Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show.  
**MARCH 17—CRYSTAL CITY** — Spinach Festival.  
**MARCH 27—GOLIAD**—Pontifical Field Mass.  
**MARCH 28—AUSTIN**—Texas Centennial Relcys.

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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Texas State Line Markers, c.1937.  
Courtesy TxDOT.



Enter Texas - State Line Marker  
Hwy. #5 - Texas-New Mexico State Line



Looking Southeast to Texline  
Hwy. #5, Dallam County

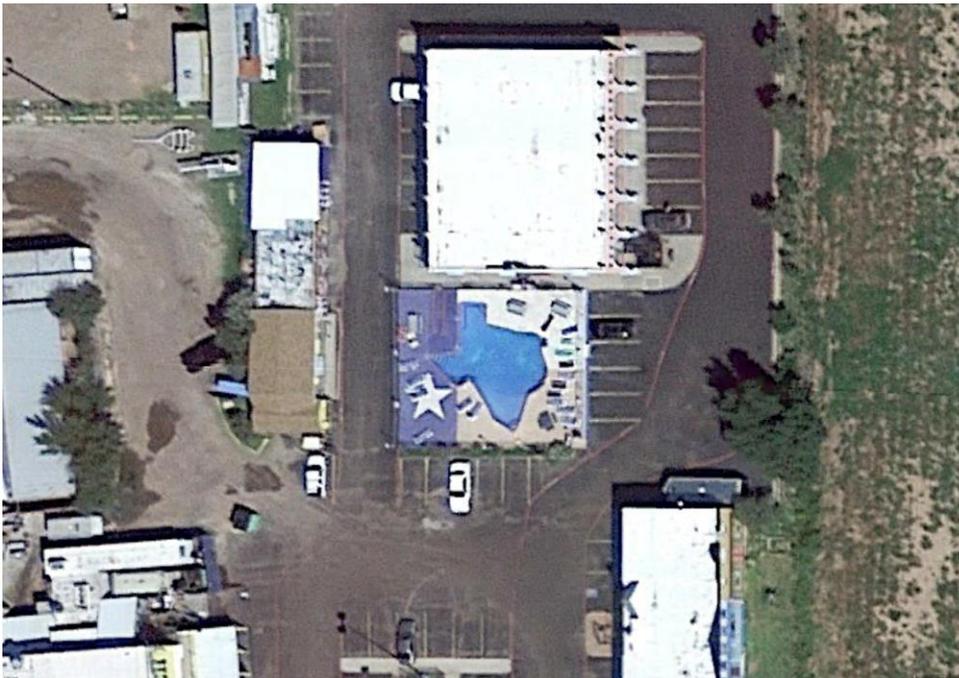
Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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**Hilltop Lakes Pool (circa 1963), near Normangee, Leon County**  
31.074002, -96.208774



**Big Texan Motel Pool (after 1967), Amarillo, Potter County**  
35.194066, -101.754447



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

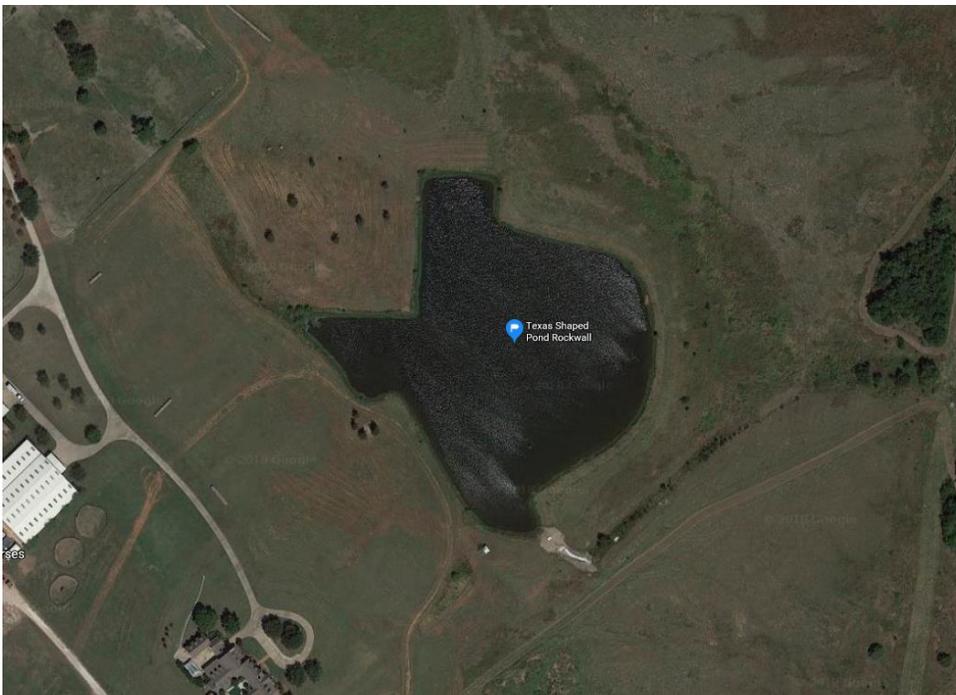
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**Six Flags Fiesta Texas Pool (after 1995), San Antonio, Bexar County**  
29.600560, -98.609730



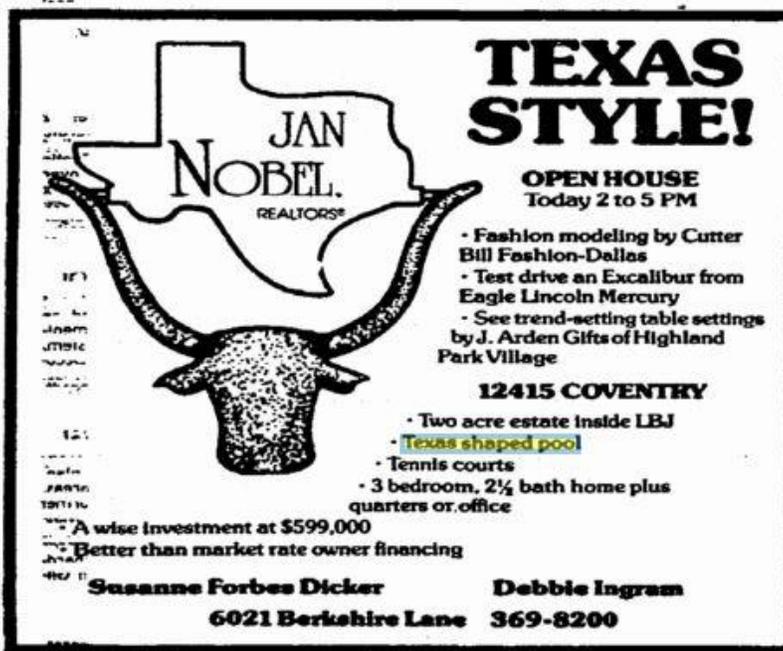
**Private Ranch Stock Pond, Rockwall County (after 1968).**

The largest known Texas-shaped body of water, measured diagonally at approximately 645 feet. Originally an accurate form, lack of upkeep has led to loss of shape at the gulf coast.



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

Assortment of real estate advertisements mentioning Texas-shaped pools. *Dallas Morning News*, 1979-1984.



**TEXAS STYLE!**

**JAN NOBEL REALTORS**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Today 2 to 5 PM

- Fashion modeling by Cutter Bill Fashion-Dallas
- Test drive an Excalibur from Eagle Lincoln Mercury
- See trend-setting table settings by J. Arden Gifts of Highland Park Village

**12415 COVENTRY**

- Two acre estate inside LBJ
- **TEXAS SHAPED POOL**
- Tennis courts
- 3 bedroom, 2½ bath home plus quarters or office

A wise investment at \$599,000  
 Better than market rate owner financing

**Susanne Forbes Dicker**      **Debbie Ingram**  
 6021 Berkshire Lane      369-8200

**Ultimate in Texas Lifestyle**

Casual elegant one-of-a-kind contemporary. 3 bdrms, 2½ bath, PLUS GUESTHOUSE, TEXAS SHAPED POOL & TENNIS COURT. If you like informal living and entertaining this is for you. \$398,000. Eves. Inez Mersky, 387-0445.

*Paula Stringer*

**A Merrill Lynch Realty Associate**

**233-9000**

**TEXAS**

Inside & Out! 4 Texas-sized bedrooms, 2½ baths and Game-room inside and a gorgeous TEXAS-shaped POOL outside! Great for summer fun. Near schools and shopping. A great value at \$129,900. Eves. 867-6718.

**POOL**

Plus Shade! If you want trees, see this 4 bedroom custom with beautiful POOL. Earth tones throughout. Super living-den plus formal dining room. \$89,900. Eves. 422-4876 or 424-6409.

**LeuSmith**  
 REALTORS®  
 3055 W. 15th St., PLANO, TX  
 596-0033

**First Offering**  
**4933 Swiss Ave**

Large brick Prairie style home with four porches. Rookwood fireplaces in magnificent master and elegant living room. Grand staircase entry, plus servant's stairs. Texas-shaped pool. Known as 'The Honeymoon House'. A prime opportunity to secure a Swiss Avenue address at an affordable \$345,000. Milette McGowen 824-8799.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ **\$200 OFF** ★ ★

★ **FIRST MONTH RENT** ★

★ 1 and 2 bedrooms ★

★ • Olympic Pool ★

★ • Texas Shaped Pool ★

★ • Tennis Courts ★

★ • Playground ★

★ • Ceiling Fans ★

★ • WBFP's ★

★ • Washer/Dryer ★

★ Connections ★

★ • Security On Premises ★

★ PRICES START AT \$350- ★

★ 1 Child Welcome ★

★ **MEADOW CREEK** ★

★ **VILLAGE** ★

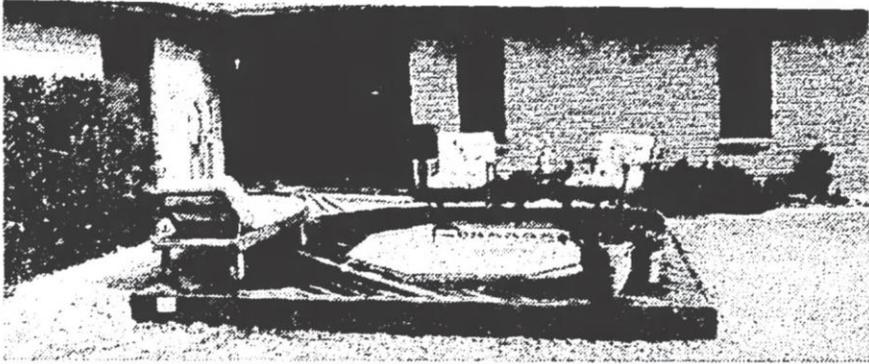
★ 288-7649 288-7640 ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

Advertisement for "EXCLUSIVE GIANT AND LARGE TEXAS SPAS."  
*Lubbock Evening Journal*, April 29, 1983.

**SPA SALE**  
**GUARANTEED 7 DAY SALE ONLY!**



**FEATURING ON LOCATION:**  
FACTORY OUTLET FIBERGLASS AND ACRYLIC SPAS,  
PORTABLE SPAS, 12x18 SWIMMING POOL, 21 SPA SHELLS,  
EXCLUSIVE GIANT AND LARGE TEXAS-SHAPED SPAS,  
3 COMPLETELY OPERATIONAL SPAS, 47 DIFFERENT  
STYLES TO SELECT FROM

**SAVINGS OF HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS! THIS WILL BE  
THE ONLY SALE OF THIS KIND THIS SUMMER**

POOL SALE: 12x28 ROMAN POOL \$7,995.00 INSTALLED  
LIMITED TO FIRST 3 SOLD.

**OPEN  
MON.-SAT.  
10AM to 5PM  
SUN.-1PM-5PM**



**2009 E. 50TH ST.  
ONE MILE EAST OF  
AVE. A  
LUBBOCK**

Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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Texas Pool from Above  
Photographed by David Woo for the *Dallas Morning News*, 2017.



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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Photo 1

Entrance to the Texas Pool, including brown city provided sign, Plano Conservancy provided wayside sign, Little Free Library, and Little Free Pantry, facing west.



Photo 2

The Texas Pool and entrance and changing rooms to the left, facing south.



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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Photo 3  
The Texas Pool, facing west.



Photo 4  
The Texas Pool, facing east.



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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Photo 5  
The Texas Pool, looking northeast.



Photo 6  
The Texas Pool, looking southeast.



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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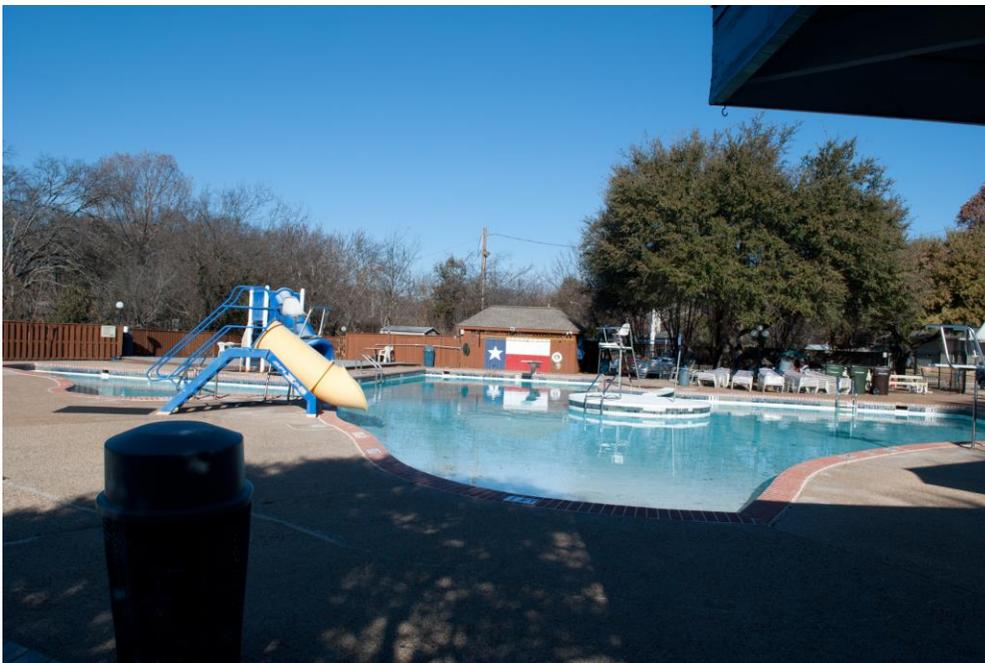
Photo 7

The Texas Pool pumphouse with a Texas Flag mural, located on the north end of the property above the Panhandle, facing northeast.



Photo 8

The full perspective of the Texas Pool, looking northeast.



Texas Pool, Plano, Collin County, Texas

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Photo 9  
Mural on the men's changing room, facing southeast.



Photo 10  
Mural on the women's changing room, facing south.

