

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only
received **NOV 20 1979**
date entered **JAN 8 1980**

1. Name

historic White-Pool House

and/or common White-Pool House

2. Location

street & number 112 East Murphy St. _____ not for publication

city, town Odessa _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 16th

state Texas code 048 county Ector code 135

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>IN PROCESS</u>

4. Owner of Property

name (1) County of Ector, (2) with Ector County Historical Commission as trustees

street & number (1) Ector County Courthouse, (2) 1517 Englewood Lane

city, town Odessa _____ vicinity of _____ state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ector County Courthouse, Deed Records, County Clerk's Office

street & number Ector County Court House

city, town Odessa _____ state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date February 1978 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin _____ state Texas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

On the highest knoll in what is now Odessa, Texas, at 112 East Murphy Street, the two-story red brick house was built in 1887 by Charles White and his two adult sons as a dwelling place for the family, which was among the first to settle permanently in the county. Located near the transcontinental railline, the house was patterned after a large, impressively substantial two-story red brick house built earlier by Charles White on the crest of a small hill in Raysville, Indiana, but it was adapted to the building materials available on the newly opening ranching frontier of West Texas. Its solid, well finished yet simple structure reflected the Quaker heritage of the builder and his wife, as well as the rustic aspects of its isolated site.

The outside walls were of red brick with plaster masonry over wooden lattice boards inside. There were four large, high ceilinged (10 feet) rooms downstairs; a family living room, formal parlor, dining room, and kitchen. There was also a small room off the kitchen and dining room, probably used as a bathroom. A stairway with carved newel posts led upward to a large hall and three large bedrooms on the second floor. The house had four chimneys, one for the large fireplace in the family living room with a mantel and a slate hearth and the others used as flues for the wood burning stoves for heating and cooking. There was a front porch at the entrance and a large porch extending around the east side and across the back of the house on the south. All of the rooms had beaded ceilings, and the door and window facings were of fine sculptured molding. The floors, doors, ceilings, and other woodwork were all varnished. Native sandstone was used for steps at the porches, and the rock lined cellar or basement under the back portion of the house was made of native caliche (white) rock found on the West Texas Prairie. Wooden shakes covered the pitched roof.

When the Whites came by train in 1887, their youngest son rode in a boxcar to guarantee the safe arrival of the full carload of their fine matching furniture, much of which has been located. White, who is believed to be the founder of agricultural effort in Ector County, planted sorghum cane and cotton, and an impressive orchard of fruit trees and a garden surrounded his home. The plantings were irrigated with water piped from a wooden windmill and earthen holding tank that stood at the south of the house by the wooden barn, none of which still exist.

After the White heirs sold the property in 1906, and it subsequently changed owners several times, Oso William Pool bought the house and fifty acres of land in February 1923. When the oil boom hit Ector County in 1927 and Odessa faced a housing shortage, he turned his home into an apartment house. Using wood, he built a room above the front porch, which replaced the wooden balustrade added there by a previous owner, and he closed in the east side of the first floor porch as another room. He also installed an upstairs bathroom with a partitioning wall at the end of the southwest bedroom, and he divided with a wall the large formal parlor on the west side of the lower floor. Thus, he partitioned the house into two apartments upstairs and three downstairs. About the same time, he annexed the property into the city limits, blocked it off, and sold individual lots. The addition has been known as Pool's Annex since it was platted on June 23, 1927. At various times, other rental units were constructed on the property, but they have all been removed.

Although the house eventually fell into disrepair after decades of use as apartments, the structure is still basically sound and essentially as its original design and appearance. All alterations can be easily removed to restore the house to its original state. The grounds, which still comprise most of a city block, are intended to serve as a Pioneer Park when the restoration project is completed on the White-Pool Historic House and Museum, which will continue to remain as an important community landmark and center.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED NOV 20 1979

DATE ENTERED

JAN 8 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET White-Pool House SEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

A photo in the possession of the Ector County Historical Commission shows a house with quoins, hoodmolds, and label stops in a lighter color. The porch detail consists of a balustraded balcony above a simple cornice and column. The County Commission accepts this photo as showing the White-Pool House. It is a logical conclusion, based on careful comparison of other features. No certain evidence linking the two has been found, however. Further investigation on-site may clarify the situation.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1887

Builder/Architect Charles White and sons, Wilfred W and Herbert H.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Charles and Lucy White and their two adult sons came by train with their possessions from Raysville, Indiana, bought a section of land on July 4, 1887, and within the year completed a fine house near the railroad. It was the first substantial structure built in an empty area at a time when Odessa consisted of fewer than eleven (1888) scattered, simple frame buildings. The elegantly simple, late Victorian style brick house, which reflected the distinguished owner's Quaker religion and which took shape from innovative adaptations of native materials, dominated the subsequent development of the area as a tribute to pioneer determination. The White family was instrumental in the initial agricultural, commercial, political, and religious development of the county. After Charles's death and after the property changed owners several times, it was acquired in February 1923 by a family that would be associated with it for more than a half century. Oso W. Pool and his family came to Ector County in the decade of the discovery of oil, and they became prominently involved in the events that created a boom-town atmosphere and that added the eventual modernization of industrial development to the ranching base of the region. The White-Pool House remains by many years the oldest existing structure, the only example of late 19th and early 20th century architecture, and the county's acknowledged symbol of both its frontier ranching and subsequent oil boom-town heritage.

In 1881 the Texas and Pacific Railroad laid tracks for the southern transcontinental railline across the uninhabited desert-like Llano Estacado. To profit from the state landgrant, the railroad land company promoted the area as a health resort and new farm and ranching country by sponsoring a largely unsuccessful sale of lots in 1886. Partly in response, Charles and Lucy Haughton White and their sons came to Odessa early in 1887 and built their home.

Charles White is believed to be the founder of agricultural innovations in the county. Experimenting in a treeless land with a variety of trees, shrubs, and crops, many of which he would prove not to be adaptable, White's efforts and irrigation system were featured in photographs apparently used by the railroad for promotional purposes. White established a general mercantile store nearby, in what later became downtown Odessa, and his son Wilfred, operated it as Odessa's first postmaster. When the county government was first organized in 1891, the two White's held posts, including county surveyor and election judge. Lucy White's strong religious background led her to the initial development and maintenance of a little Union Sunday School. All the White's continued to nurture the beginnings they had planted until Charles's death in 1905 and the departure of his widow and family the following year.

A young veteran of World War I, Oso W. Pool, and other members of his family, came to Ector County in the early 1920s. In the first year of the oil boom, 1927, Oso married Helen Voss and helped meet the housing shortage by dividing their home into apartments and by developing South Odessa as a part of the growing town. He annexed his fifty acres to the city, platted it as the Pool Annex, and sold individual lots. The Pool Family Real Estate Company operated from the house and eventually other rental units were built on the city block the main house by then occupied. The house and its facilities dominated the neighborhood. Its well and holding tank supplied the water for both houses and businesses there before such city services were supplied. Before he served as County Commissioner, Oso sold the property to his parents, William J. and Ida B. Pool, who lived there and eventually transferred it to their heirs. In 1969 the property was sold but the Pool Family retained the mortgage, and Oso again acquired it in 1977, at which time it was voluntarily donated to Ector County. The Ector County Historical Commission, as trustees, plan to restore the house to its basic original outward appearance and to furnish the inside for historic statements about the two significant eras of the county's development.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Texas. The New Southwest, The New County of Ector, The New Town of Odessa." (Odessa Land and Townsite Company, January 1, 1888). Permian Historical Archives, University of Texas of the Permian Basin
 Records of Ector County, Ector County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Odessa SE

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	3	7	4	9	4	4	0	3	5	2	5	7	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing							

C

Zone				Easting				Northing							

D

Zone				Easting				Northing							

E

Zone				Easting				Northing							

F

Zone				Easting				Northing							

G

Zone				Easting				Northing							

H

Zone				Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

All of lots 13, 14, 18, 19 and 20 and the West 40' of lot 15, Block 1, Pool's Annex, an addition to Odessa, Texas, County of Ector.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Bobbie Jean Klepper, Chair Research Committee White-Pool House

organization Ector County Historical Commission

date May 14, 1979

street & number 1705 East 46th

telephone (915) 362-3654

city or town Odessa

state Texas

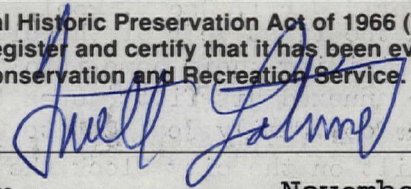
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

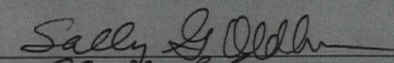


title State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 8, 1979

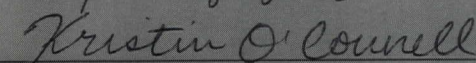
For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



date 1/8/80

Keeper of the National Register



date 1/2/80

Attest:

Chief of Registration

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED NOV 20 1979

DATE ENTERED

JAN 8 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

UNPUBLISHED SOURCES

Letters, interviews, photographs, genealogies. Ector County Historical Commission Archives.

Margaret Ann Price, "From Rails to Rigs: The Early History of Ector County, Texas, 1881-1927," (M.A. Thesis, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, 1977).

SECONDARY SOURCES

Barrett, Velma and Oliver, Hazel, Odessa: City of Dreams, A Miracle of the Texas Prairies (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1952).

The Odessa American, various dates.

80009099

Property White-Pool House

State TX-Ector

Working Number 11-20-79 2988

TECHNICAL

Photos 7

Maps 1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

2 Rustic 1880's farmhouse built by family prominent in early development of county, later altered to provide apartments for growing population in oil boom period. Seen as community landmark reflecting both major historical periods of local growth; owned by historical group with plans to restore it as museum. Building ~~is~~ has suffered some deterioration (i.e. cracks + swelling in brickwork, e.g.) but local commitment to rehabilitation strengthens case for listing.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
O'Connell
1/2/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered JAN 8 1980

Federal Register Entry 2-3-81

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



White/Pool Historic House, Odessa
Texas, photographer unknown, ca.
1889, neg. in the Ector County
Historical Commission Archives,
camera facing south-west, house
view shown is the east and north
(1)

White-Pool House
112 East Murphy
Odessa, Ector County, Texas

NOV 20 1979

Photographer unknown; negative in Ector
County Historical Commission Archives.
c. 1889.

Northeast oblique

Photo #1

JAN 8 1980



(2) White/Pool Historic House,
Odessa, Texas, ca. 1923, neg. in
Ector County Historical Commission
Archives, camera direction south,
view north side of house, photo-
grapher unknown.

White-Pool House
112 East Murphy
Odessa, Ector County, Texas

NOV 4 0 1979

Photographer unknown; negative in Ector
County Historical Commission Archives.
c. 1923.

North elevation of structure accepted as
White-Pool House.

Photo #2

JAN 8 1980



(3) White/Pool Historic House,
Odessa, Texas, 1939, photographer
unknown, neg. in Ector County
Historical Commission Archives,
camera direction Southwest, view
east and north sides of house.

White-Pool House
112 East Murphy
Odessa, Ector County, Texas

NOV 20 1979

Photographer unknown; negative in Ector
County Historical Commission Archives.
1939.

Northeast oblique.

Photo #3

JAN 8 1980



(4) White/Pool Historic House,
Odessa, Texas, photographer Tracy
Worley, May 14, 1979, neg. Ector
County Historical Commission
Archives, camera facing south,
north side of house.

White-Pool House
112 East Murphy
Odessa, Ector County, Texas

NOV 20 1979

Photo by Tracy Worley, Ector County Historical
Commission, 1979.

North elevation.

Photo #4

JAN 8 1980



(6) White/Pool Historic House
Odessa, Texas, photographer Tracy
Worley, May 14, 1979, neg. in
Ector County Historical Commission
Archives, camera facing north,
south side of house.

White-Pool House
112 East Murphy
Odessa, Ector County, Texas

NOV 20 1979

Photo by Tracy Worley, Ector County Historical
Commission, 1979

South elevation.

Photo #5

JAN 8 1980



(5) White/Pool Historic House
Odessa, Texas, photographer Tracy
Worley, May 14, 1979, neg. Ector
County Historical Commission
Archives, camera facing west,
east side of house.

White-Pool House
112 East Murphy
Odessa, Ector County, Texas

NOV 20 1979

Photo by Tracy Worley, Ector Canty Historical
Commission, 1979

East elevation.

Photo #6

JAN 8 1980



(7) White/Pool Historic House,
Odessa, Texas, photographer Tracy
Worley, May 14, 1979, neg. in
Ector County Historical Commission
Archives, camera facing east, view
is west side of house.

White-Pool House
112 East Murphy
Odessa, Ector County, Texas

NOV 20 1979

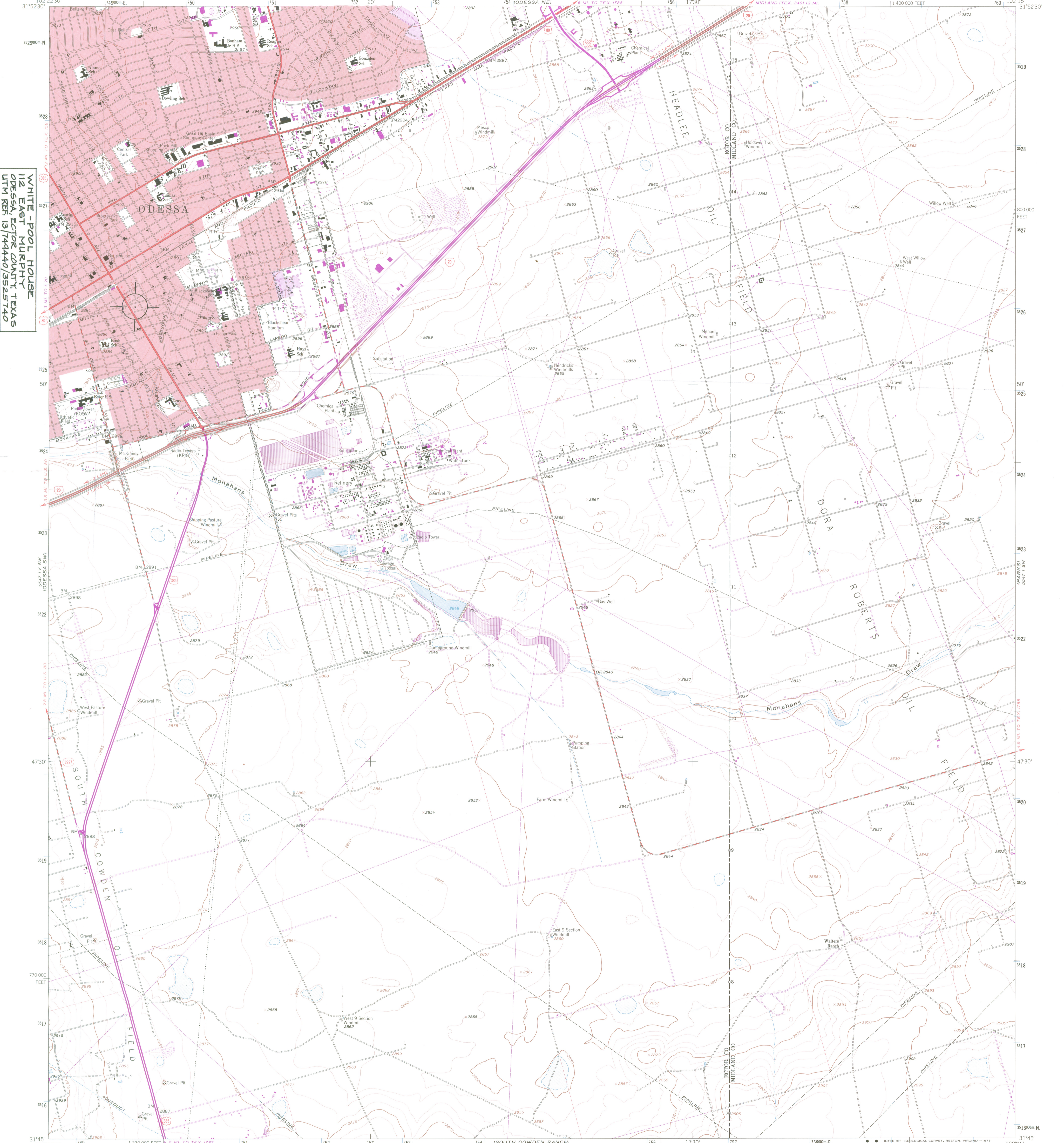
Photo by Tracy Worley, Ector County Historical
Commission, 1979

West elevation.

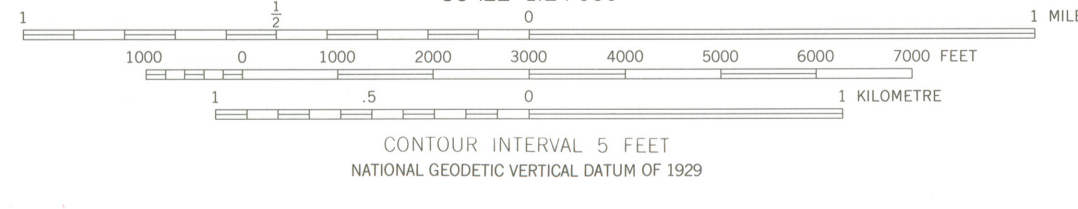
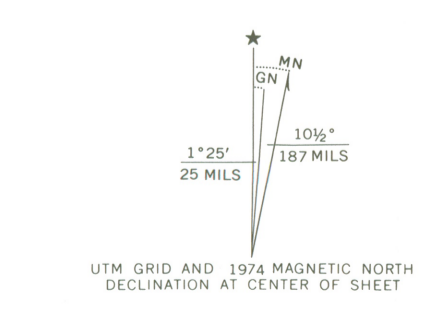
Photo #7

JAN 8 1980

WHITE - POOL HOUSE
112 EAST MURPHY
ODESSA, ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REF: 13T74440/3525740



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000 foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, central zone
1000 metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1974. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

JUL 8 1975

3102 -431

RECEIVED
ODESSA SE, TEX.
N3145 W10215
NOV 20 1979
1964
NATIONAL REGISTER
PHOTO REVISIED 1964
AMS 5547 IV SE - SERIES 7582
JAN 8 1990



Ector County Historical Commission

Ector Co.

Odessa, Texas

December 20, 1979

Please Address Reply To:

YP

Ector County Historical Commission
(Trustees)
1517 Englewood Lane
Odessa, Texas

RE: White-Pool House

(TX)

Carol D. Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Pension Building, 440 G. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

As you consider the above named house for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, I wish to bring to your attention some of the reasons I feel this property is worthy of being listed.

The White-Pool House is the oldest remaining structure in Ector County. Not only is it the oldest, it is one of the few structures that has not either been extensively remodeled or moved from its original location. The other buildings still at their place of construction in Ector County are not of such great age, are not residential construction, are not of this type of building material, or have been remodeled so as to lose the integrity of their original design. This two-story, red brick house is the one remaining example of late nineteenth century Victorian style building in the county. Its architectural design, Victorian two-story brick, is significant as a departure from the norm on the wind swept West Texas desert-like plains.

While its architectural style is significant, the house is also significant for the people who have been most intimately involved with it. Those people who fabricated the house for their dwelling place in the early era of expansion on the ranching frontier were persons of substance. They believed in organized government and were willing to assume places of responsibility in helping to establish it. Members of the family held such offices in Ector County as post master, election judge, school trustee, and county surveyor. Not content with helping to organize the county, the White patriarch was also the founder of agricultural effort in Ector County and established one of the early mercantile stores. The family that has been associated with the house for the longest period of time, the Oso W. Pool family, also were people who have been willing to serve in governmental positions. Oso Pool is a veteran of the first world war, served on the ration board during the second world war, and was also a county commissioner. His family real estate company helped the city to grow during the oil boom expansion era of development by selling real estate, providing water for the area, and by furnishing rental units.

A building of such unusual architectural features for the area that has housed people instrumental in the development of the county during both of its expansion periods deserves recognition.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Bobbie Jean Klepper

Mrs. Bobbie Jean Klepper
Chair, Research Committee

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D DEC 26 1979

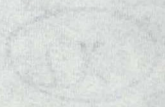
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____



THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered JAN 8 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
White-Pool House	Odessa Ector County
San Antonio Casino Club Building	San Antonio Bexar County
Haden House	Ladonia Fannin County
Roper Hotel	Marble Falls Burnet County
Boardman-Webb-Bugg House	Austin Travis County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Richard C. White
Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez
Honorable Sam B. Hall, Jr.
Honorable James M. Leath
Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NR Byers/bjr 1/15/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.