

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The DeGolyer Estate # 2000

AND/OR COMMON

Everette DeGolyer House (Rancho Encinal)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

8525 Garland Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dallas

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Texas

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Dallas

CODE

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Dallas, Park and Recreation Dept.

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, Room 406, Main and Harwood Streets

CITY, TOWN

Dallas

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas 75201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dallas County, Texas

STREET & NUMBER

Records Building

CITY, TOWN

Dallas

STATE

Texas 75201

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

C. A. Lovejoy Survey, Dallas County Abstract Number 830 and 831
City Block Number 4411, Recorded in Volume 74229, pages 0967-0972

DATE

October 21, 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Dallas County Records Building

CITY, TOWN

Dallas,

Texas 75202^{TE}

D.O.R.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION
 EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE
 UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE
 ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The DeGolyer estate consists of a large one-story hacienda-like house in the Spanish Colonial Revival style and its surrounding 43 acres of gardens and woodlands. The house is approached from the main gate whose spiraling stone supports resemble an ammonite fossil.

The entrance front of the main house borders three sides of an octagonal grass court. The massive stone wall of the center section is symmetrical with twelve foot paneled wooden double doors. At each side of the doors are small quatrefoil stained glass windows and beyond them large French windows set back to give the impression of exceedingly thick walls; their beautifully wrought iron grills (vejas) are the chief ornamentation of the facade. Banales protrude from near the top of the roof. The wing to the left (south) is set off from the main block at a 45° angle and has smaller versions of the center windows with wrought iron grills; while the right (north) wing, also at a 45° angle, contains a bull's eye window, a porch and porte cochere supported by two massive stone columns.

Incoursed stone, stucco and brick are the primary materials used on the house for exterior finishes; these are contrasted by the use of ornamental wrought iron grillwork and a generous compliment of porches, some of which are arcaded by immense stone arches and others supported by Doric columns. The roof is the terra cotta red tile popularly associated with Spanish missions in California. It is broken by a variety of often whimsical and invariably picturesque chimneys as well as a small bell tower. The roofline is low and at varied levels to accomodate the 8 foot to 20 foot interior ceiling heights.

The entrance hall in the main block has a vaulted ceiling and floor of red octagonal tiles. The room is highlighted by an immense 17th century hammered silver lantern formerly hung in a Spanish church. The living room, entrance hall and dining room are placed enfilade to create one long vista; ten foot mahogany doors with raised panels may be closed to separate the chambers. All three rooms have twenty foot ceilings and, to the west, magnificent lake views.

The most noteworthy architectural features of the living room are a huge stone fireplace surmounted by large carved wooden panels and supported by stone consols, and also the fine plaster coffered ceiling with octagonal panels of Tudor rose bosses surrounded by acanthus leaves. The dining room is noteworthy for the large pedimented frontispiece surrounding the deep door of the south wall, the twelve foot pewter chandelier and, even more, for the exedra at the north end of the room, the top of which is in the form of a giant shell.

Beyond the dining room is a paneled breakfast room with brick floor and the so-called "Indian Room". The latter room was built to house an extensive collection of Spanish Colonial, pre-Columbian, Mexican and Indian art. The floor is random slate and the walls are stucco. The ceiling and fireplace are the most noteworthy architectural feature in a room which, more than any other in the house, displays the ambience of southwestern living. The fireplace curves out from the corner and in turn intersects with a downward curve from the adjacent wall to create an interesting contrast of planes. The ceiling is composed of huge, hand-finished beams, between which, laid horizontally, are the peeled saplings called vigas, another characteristic southwestern element. The end opposite the fireplace has a semi-circular

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niche with a bench. Small niches are placed in the walls for statuary. Also in the north wing of the house is the service area consisting of the very ample and unaltered butler's pantry, kitchen and the flower arranging room (with double exedras) beyond which are servants quarters, two green-houses and a four-car garage.

The south wing of the house is in the form of a quadrangle built around an interior patio surrounded on three sides by bedrooms and on the fourth by the library. There are four bedroom suites, the most noteworthy of which is the master bedroom, dressing room and sitting room. This suite has fifteen foot ceilings and Georgian detailing. The mantelpiece of the sitting room is in the Adam style but interpreted in a distinctive 1930's manner.

The library is without a doubt the most noteworthy single room in the house and perhaps the raison d'etre for its construction. Measuring 35' by 50' with fifteen foot ceilings, the library contains floor-to-ceiling oak bookcases which once contained the 15,000 volume library. The shelves are broken by the large fireplace above which is a Texas walnut over-mantel; there are also oak pilasters placed at regular intervals. The far (west) end of the library is splayed inward and terminates with a semi-circular bow window offering a panoramic view of White Rock Lake. At this end of the library are found two small hidden rooms entered through sliding bookcases; these were used for storing the rarest and largest and most unwieldy volumes. The library is lit by indirect fluorescent lighting (said to be the first use of such lighting in a private residence).

Grounds of the DeGolyer estate are on the same large scale as the house itself. Fully mature and very little altered after forty years, they reflect a variety of landscaping and gardening types. These include several formal gardens with fountains, statuary and boxwood; a long magnolia allee; a tropical patio garden, various "natural landscapes" of the 18th century English style (for which numerous trees and shrubs were planted or transplanted from elsewhere on the property); the cutting gardens; and also vegetable gardens and orchards.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1938-1940

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Denman Scott, Burton Schutt

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The late Everette Lee DeGolyer, in the words of social philosopher Ferdinand Lundberg, "compares with most oil hunters as a Stradivarius with a banjo". DeGolyer's achievements as a businessman and scientist in the oil industry would be adequate to make him a man of note, but his interests went beyond that. He was a major book collector, scholar, writer, philanthropist and a man of an extraordinarily wide range of interests. Architecturally the house reflects this variety of interests and an affection for the Southwest. An important example of a Spanish Colonial Revival residence, the DeGolyer house by architects Schutt and Scott is reminiscent in size, detailing and massing to the masters of that style. The landscape and gardens, by prominent Dallas landscape architect Arthur Berger, are an integral part of the overall design. The architects planned the house around the existing trees, views of White Rock Lake, and vistas of the meadows and woodlands. The landscape architects planned the site to complement the functions and fenestration of the different pavillions of the house, as well as to conform to the topography and existing vegetation. Formal gardens and promenades as well as woodlands and meadows cover the 43 acre site. The virtually unaltered grounds of the DeGolyer estate, executed just prior to philosophical upheavels in landscape design that occurred in the late 1930's, remain an excellent example of the landscape design philosophy which predominated until about 1940.

Of remote Huguenot ancestry and born in 1886 in a sod house in Greensboro, Kansas, DeGolyer developed an early interest in petroleum exploration. But his chief interest was in developing scientific rather than trial-and-error means of locating oil. Before graduating from the University of Oklahoma, he accompanied Dr. C. Willard Hayes, with whom he had worked on a U.S. Geological survey team on a trip to Mexico to help the English-owned Mexican Eagle Oil Company in a last ditch effort to locate oil. Other top geologists had been unable to locate oil. After successfully making one find under DeGolyer's advice, a second well was drilled which resulted in the world's largest single oil well--Potrero de Llano #4--which produced 100 million barrels of oil. At this time the 24-year old DeGolyer returned to Norman, Oklahoma, finished his work for his degree, and married Nell Goodrich, daughter of Dr. Hugh Gideon Goodrich of Norman in 1910. He and Lord Cowdray of the Old Mexican Eagle Oil Company soon formed the Amerada Corporation to concentrate on the search for oil in Texas and Louisiana. The founding of the Amerada Corporation was perhaps the most influential single event in the application of scientific techniques to the finding of oil. Under DeGolyer's direction, the seismograph refraction and torsion balance methods, the magnometer and other devices were developed and refined to help oil prospectors locate the underground salt domes which

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are a geological feature of oil fields. He later created Geophysical Corporation (an outgrowth of which became Texas Instruments) and Eastern Transunion and finally DeGolyer and MacNaughton, consulting engineers. The firm was recognized as tops in its field and its counsel sought after by the United States and foreign governments, oil companies, banks and investment firms. DeGolyer was recognized as the authority on the finding of oil and his judgement as the best. More than anyone else, he applied scientific methods to the discovery of oil and is regarded as the Father of American Geophysics.

Yet, scholarly and scientific pursuits invariably took precedence over the accumulation of wealth. According to his biographer Lon Tinkle, "DeGolyer was a restless, energetic inquiring man whose interests were far broader than geology, the art of prospecting for oil, or the entire world oil business. He was an omnivorous reader, especially on subjects which appealed to him. Two of these were the history of science and the early history of the Southwestern United States." His interest led him to assemble one of the finest libraries on the history of science in the Western Hemisphere. As a result of these disparate interests, author DeGolyer's list of published works range from articles in scientific journals, to a life of Santa Anna for the Encyclopedia Britannica, a book (Across Aboriginal America), and many book reviews of books about the Southwest. He was also a member of the book world by virtue of his being Chairman of the Board of the "Saturday Review of Literature" magazine, and by ownership of the Peripatetic Press-his amateur publishing venture dealing with mostly regional works. This involvement in the world of books is beautifully stated in the Rancho Encinal library. His participation in the cultural affairs of Dallas, having served on the boards of the Dallas Theater, Inc., Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas Council on World Affairs, the Dallas Historical Association and the Arboretum Foundation, also drew to his home people from many other fields. DeGolyer was also on the boards of several corporations and banks and served during World War II as Assistant Deputy Coordinator for National Defense. He held other government posts during his lifetime including membership in the Advisory Committee on Raw Materials for Atomic Energy Commission. As Mr. Tinkle says in the DeGolyer biography, "What baffles anyone who knew DeGolyer or who studies his career is where he found the time to turn his attention to all the multifarious things he did....It was not the habit of wealth (the early Tampico strike accustomed him to it) or any predatory instinct that drove him to ever-increasing activity; it was seeking for excellence, defined as the mind--whether in practical or theoretical employment--realizing itself". He even won first prize in a chili cooking contest at the 1948 State Fair of Texas.

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<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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In 1936 DeGolyer, his wife and four children moved to Dallas to be nearer to his work. Finding no conventional residence which could adequately accommodate his ever-growing collection of books as well as their antique furniture and objects d'art collected in world travels, the DeGolyers decided to build a house unlike any in Texas. They chose as their architects two young brothers from California, Denman Scott and Burton Schutt, whose forte was the design of large country or suburban homes with a very strong southwestern influence. Along with David Williams of Dallas, O'Neil Ford of San Antonio, and John Staubb of Houston, Schutt and Scott's buildings reflected a need for a distinctly southwestern style rather than apeing the work of Eastern architects. While the architects executed a number of other major commissions in Texas, the majority of their work was done in California, primarily in the Beverly Hills and Bel Air section (including the Bel Air Hotel) of Los Angeles. Unfortunately, both brothers died while comparatively young, before achieving full recognition. Their work was widely published in architectural journals, particularly "California Arts and Architecture".

The DeGolyers had lived in Tampico, Mexico, when first married and were nostalgically fond of the architecture of the Southwest; even in their huge Jacobethan Revival home near New York City, they had an Indian Room and over the years had collected Spanish, Latin American and American Indian furniture and artifacts. Everette and Nell DeGolyer traveled through California with Schutt and Scott, selecting details to be incorporated in their house.

The DeGolyers chose as a site for their future and final home a 43-acre heavily wooded dairy farm bordered by White Rock Lake on two sides, right in the city of Dallas. From the immense live oak trees, the property derived its name, Rancho Encinal--Spanish term for the ranch of the oaks--and around the live oaks and the lake views, the DeGolyers and their architects planned their Texas hacienda and its gardens. Its single story blends with rather than dominates the land and the simplicity of the exterior displays the typical inward quality of much Spanish and Latin American domestic architecture.

Construction of the house began in 1938 and the DeGolyers moved in it in 1940. It should also be noted that, in addition to its impressive size and striking appearance, the DeGolyer house also included several innovative design features, such as the use of the patio rather than an interior hallway to connect the bedrooms; it was also one of the first private residences in the city to have a central air-conditioning system or to use fluorescent lighting.

The grounds were laid out by the Harvard-educated landscape architect, Arthur Berger who worked closely with Mrs. DeGolyer and the architects.

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Arthur Berger was a prominent landscape architect in Texas from the time of his first major commission, the DeGolyer estate, until his death in 1960. Initially he practiced in New York City and Toledo, Ohio, before coming to Dallas in 1939. He and his wife, Marie, a fellow landscape architect, practiced together in Dallas following World War II. Major projects included: a resort in Jamaica; a resort in Lucerne, Switzerland (ca. 1938); grounds of the Stagecoach Inn, Salado, Texas; landscaping for the Dallas News building, Dallas, Texas; a roof terrace garden at the Dallas Public Library, Dallas, Texas; campus planning and landscaping at Trinity University (ca. 1956), San Antonio, Texas; gardens at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Residential commissions are concentrated in Dallas and San Antonio, Texas. Many of the works have been published in periodicals. Mr. Berger wrote numerous magazine articles and lectured all over the country at schools of architecture. Prominent architects the Bergers have worked with include O'Neil Ford and William Wilson Wurster.

The result of Arthur Berger's work was a very rare and harmonious blend of architecture and landscape architecture laid out on a large scale and virtually unaltered since. Subsequent years have added a genuine patina to the house and full maturity to the landscape.

In the years that followed, Rancho Encinal was enjoyed by its owners and also by countless guests. As writer John William Rogers wrote at the apex of the DeGolyer's life together there in 1951, "Probably as in no other home in Dallas and few in America there is a steady stream of great scientists, authors, financiers, publishers and figures of the great world. And yet, these contacts are so born of mutual interests that the visitors find themselves there naturally".

DeGolyer died in 1956 and his widow in 1972. The DeGolyers had long envisioned that the estate would become a study center, a modest version of the Huntington Foundation in California or Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. But after the trustees of the DeGolyer Foundation turned over the extraordinary house, grounds and library and an endowment to Southern Methodist University, it was decided to remove the book collection to the main campus and offer the property for sale. After several years of facing an uncertain future, the estate was purchased by the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City of Dallas. The grounds are under consideration as the location of the nucleus of a city arboretum and various adaptive uses for the main house are being considered.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tinkle, J. Lon, Mr. De
 Lundberg, Ferdinand, The Rich and the Super Rich
 Amory, Cleveland, "Mr. De of Texas", "Saturday Review", Jan. 26, 1957.
 Rogers, John William, The Lusty Texans of Dallas

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 43.057 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME See attached U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Map'

UTM REFERENCES			QUADRANGLE SCALE				
A	14	7 13 4 05	36 3 39 8 0	B	14	7 13 9 45	36 3 3 980
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	14	7 13 9 45	36 3 32 6 0	D	14	7 13 40 5	36 33 2 6 0
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached boundary description

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Joe R. Williams, Project Director
Diana X. Clark, City of Dallas, City Arts Program

ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission DATE May 25, 1977

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 12276-Capitol Station TELEPHONE 475-3094

CITY OR TOWN Austin, STATE Texas 78711

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE 11-27-78

NPS USE ONLY:

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

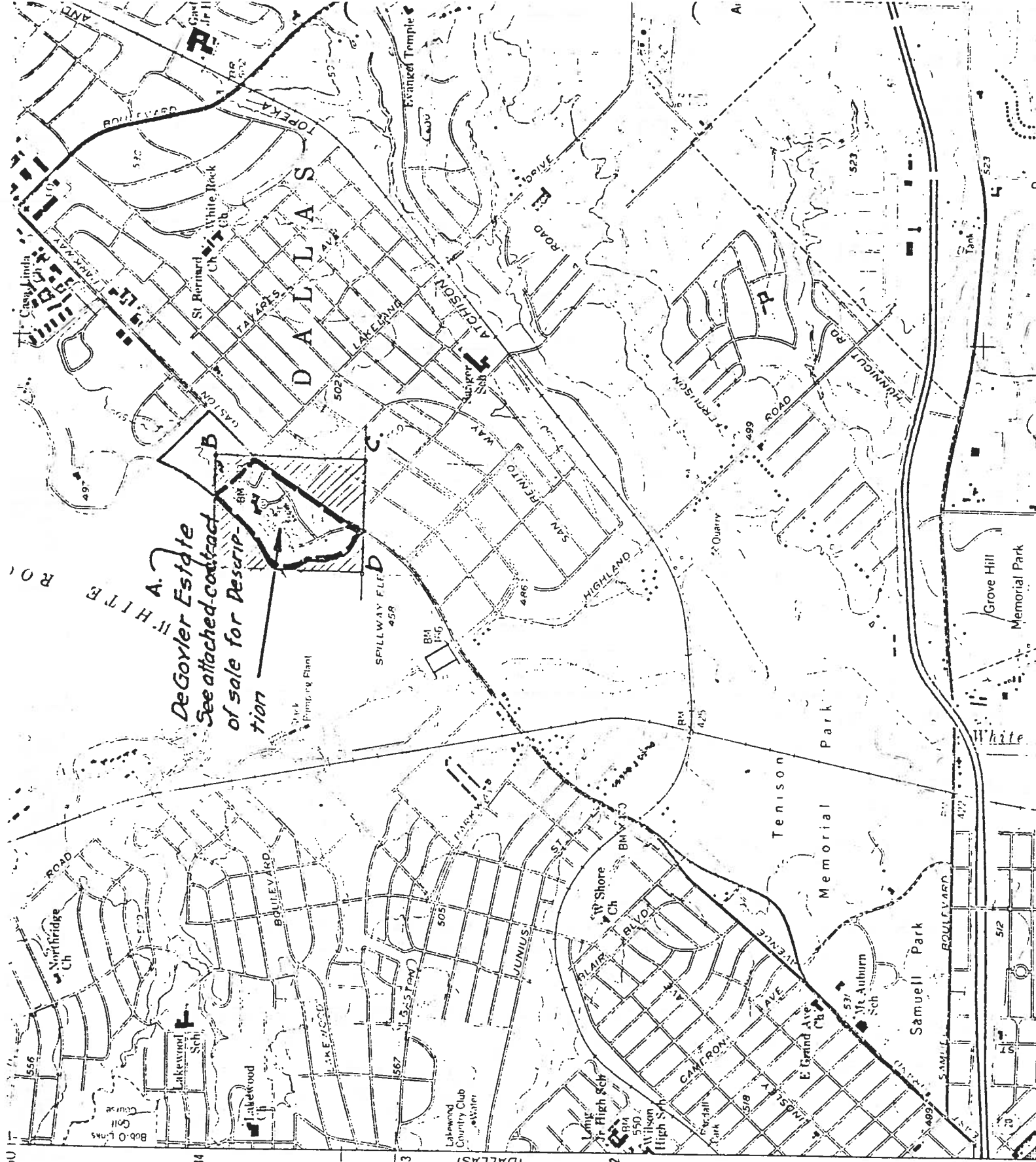
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

TEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



A.
 DeGolyer Estate
 See attached contract
 of sale for Description
 B.
 C.
 D.

THE DE GOLYER ESTATE
 8525 GARLAND ROAD
 DALLAS COUNTY, DALLAS, TEXAS

UTM

- A. 14/713405/3633980
- B. 14/713945/3633980
- C. 14/713945/3633260
- D. 14/713405/3633760

4730