

Signature of the Keeper *Edson A. Beall* Date of Action *2/9/01*

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public-local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/ waterworks = pump station

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: RECREATION AND CULTURE / music facility

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late Victorian: Italianate, Romanesque

MATERIALS:

FOUNDATION	CONCRETE
WALLS	TILE
ROOF	BRICK
OTHER	OTHER/cast stone

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-7).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

The Turtle Creek Pump Station, designed by Dallas architect C.A. Gill in 1909, altered in 1953, and rehabilitated and adapted for new uses in 1983, is an eclectic mix of Richardsonian Romanesque and Italianate influences. The surprisingly ornate facades reflect the high quality of masonry detail and craftsmanship typical of even industrial buildings of the late 19th and early 20th century. Located approximately three miles north of the downtown Dallas courthouse, on the remains of a once-prominent hill overlooking the old Trinity River channel, the four-story Pump Station continues to serve as a visual landmark of Dallas' Progressive Era. The historic waterworks building is in excellent condition and retains its integrity of design, workmanship, materials, association, and feeling.

The Turtle Creek Pump Station is the only building remaining of the original 46-acre complex of buildings, settling basins, and associated facilities that constituted Dallas' first water diversion and purification facility. The four-story brick and stone structure is located on a triangular parcel of land, surrounded by two multi-lane, high-speed thoroughfares (Oak Lawn Avenue and Harry Hines Boulevard) and the Dallas North Tollway. The building sits on a prominent hill overlooking the nearby IH-35 Stemmons Freeway corridor, once the channel of the Trinity River, and is reached by a steep driveway from Harry Hines Boulevard.

The overall scale and massing of the building and the use of red brick and cast stone reflect the Richardsonian Romanesque influences predominant in institutional and commercial architecture of the period (see Photo 1). Rising some 70 feet in height and 101 feet in length, the building is now trapezoidal in plan, having had a corner of the south and west walls dismantled and rebuilt in 1953 when the intersection of two major adjacent roadways was widened. Evidently the original bricks, as well as windows and other materials and finishes, were re-used in the 1953 construction to closely match the remaining elements.

The articulation of windows gives the illusion of a tall building made up of several stories and numerous interior rooms, although originally the engine and boiler rooms were each but one large, one-story volume with intermediate "catwalks" along the perimeter walls giving access to the boilers, engines and equipment. The taller of the two blocks that make up the building appears to be three stories in height, with a crenellated parapet supported by a deep, bracketed cornice encircling the monitor roof (see Photo 1). A large stepped center parapet with a three-part arched window rises above the crenellation on the north elevation and hides the gable of the monitor behind, which is elevated above clerestory windows that once gave to light the engine or pump room inside (see Photo 2). The original dark red Ludowici tiles cover the pitched roof. Pairs of tall, narrow, round-arched windows with multiple lights on the second story flank the center, monumental entry bay on the north elevation. The 1980s rehabilitation returned a reconstructed entry element to this elevation, with a pair of modified Tuscan columns flanking the entry doors.

The smaller of the building's "wings," the original boiler room, appears to be two stories in height and remains largely intact from 1909, with a gabled roof encircled by a simpler stepped parapet, round arched and rectangular multi-light windows and oversize wood loading doors on both the north and south elevations (see Photos 1 & 3). Large window openings in the east elevation, facing the Dallas North Tollway some 100 feet away, were retrofitted with glass block during the 1980s renovation to prevent major traffic noise from interfering with arts performances and rehearsals inside (see Photo 4). Interior exposed masonry surfaces of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

building's original perimeter walls, a combination of white glazed block and unglazed red bricks, have been retained.

The taller portion of the Turtle Creek Pump Station, with its west wall removed and reconstructed in a different plane in 1953, was adapted beginning in 1983 to provide office, recital and other uses for a group of small arts organizations (see Photos 5 & 6). The original 70 foot tall open volume, emptied years before of its massive pumps, was divided into four stories, with new, heavy timber columns and beams supporting the inserted floors. The project created an entry foyer two stories in height along the north façade by setting back the inserted floor above. Detailing in public spaces is simple and industrial in character, with steel mesh and handrails and other industrial materials used in the prominent main stair leading from the lobby to the upper floors (see Photo 6). A passenger elevator was inserted midway along the original, exposed-brick wall separating the pump room from the boiler room.

The fourth story in the "attic" portion of the west wing was adapted for use as a small recital hall, retaining original clerestory windows along the side walls and the large arched, multi-light window on the south wall to allow natural light to flood the performance space (see Photo 7). A tiered floor for patron seating fills one end of the otherwise empty space.

Integrity

Abandoned as an active pumping station and waterworks before World War II, the building's pumps and boilers were removed and the structure served as warehousing and minor office space. The 1953 alteration required that a portion of the pump room's southwest corner be removed and reconstructed as a "clip" to accommodate a nearby thoroughfare interchange. The classically detailed entry portico on the south elevation with its simple Tuscan columns and flat suspended canopy was lost at that time, along with the stepped brick parapet enclosing the south end of the large monitor roof. The bracketed cornice of cast stone was dismantled and portions reused to return a simplified version of the detail to the reconstructed southwest wall.

By 1959, various window and door openings had been altered or enclosed on the exterior, and the interior, emptied of all original equipment, was left to deteriorate. The perimeter catwalks encircling the engine/pump room were removed, leaving only the large steel beam that supported a heavy crane that had also been removed. In 1979, nearly all wood windows and frames had been removed and the few remaining were significantly deteriorated and window and door openings boarded over.

The renovation and rehabilitation in 1983 retained the exterior brick, concrete and cast stone materials, only stabilizing and repairing deteriorated materials when needed. No historic windows or doors had survived or could be rehabilitated, but careful analysis of historic photographs afforded the opportunity for replication of light configurations, wood profiles, and frame designs on all elevations except the east facade. Window openings in the east elevation, facing the Dallas North Tollway some 40 feet away, were filled with glass block in order to protect the former boiler room, now a concert and rehearsal hall, from traffic noise and overflights from nearby Dallas Love Field Airport.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

The primary entrance to the building, which had been removed in the 1953 renovation and its function transferred to the opposite (north) elevation, was retained in the 1983 rehabilitation. No original plans or drawings could be located, and the few historic photographs did not reveal details of the entry doors in their original location. Based on information gleaned from the historic photographs, however, an interpretation of the original 1909 classical entry feature, framed by two new masonry Tuscan columns in the same material, proportion and scale as the original and protected by a suspended flat canopy, was added to the entry doorway on the north elevation (see Photo 8). The double entry doors surmounted by a multi-light fixed window are a new design compatible with the size, scale, and materials of known original building elements.

The large open volume of the boiler room on the east side of the Pump Station has been entirely preserved, with exposed brick walls and the open truss ceiling still evident above a new hardwood floor (see Photo 5). The still-taller engine/pump room has been divided into four floors supported by heavy timber columns and beams that suggest the simple, industrial character of the original building. The fourth floor "attic" concert hall also reflects the essential physical character and feeling of the Pump Station, with the exposed steel trusses of the monitor roof atop the original arched clerestory windows enclosing the large open space and a new hardwood floor (see Photo 7).

Located on its original site on a prominent rise above the former channel of the Trinity River (now an Interstate Highway), the Turtle Creek Pump Station remains a prominent visual feature in a busy urban landscape that has substantially changed from its original rural setting. Despite its mid-20th century alteration and 20-year abandonment, the Pump Station retains its historic brick and cast stone and concrete walls and ornamentation, fenestration pattern, and overall design characteristics. The building's form and plan remain sufficiently intact to affirm its feeling and association with its historic use as a water pumping station. Workmanship expressed by its original simple brick and concrete finishes, multi-light wood windows, and other details has been preserved and restored, with historic brick and cast stone apparently re-used in the 1953 renovation. The building's structural system remains in place and, although its interior has been adapted for office use, its industrial character has been preserved and still expresses its original use and importance to the community as the earliest and possibly one of the most significant remaining buildings or structures representing the history of water reclamation and treatment in Dallas.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- ☒ **A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- ☐ **B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- ☐ **C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- ☐ **D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Conservation

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1909-1950

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1909; 1930; 1939

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION:

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: C.A. Gill

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-14).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-15).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- ☐ 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*)
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

The Turtle Creek Pump Station is significant as one of the most visible and longest standing, property representing the early development of water reclamation, distribution and eventually treatment and purification for the City of Dallas, Texas. This property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, in the area of **Conservation**, at the local level of significance, for its associations with the City of Dallas' efforts to adequately meet demands for water by controlling and harnessing the Trinity River and the waterways feeding it. Constructed in 1909 following a disastrous flood that destroyed an earlier facility, the Pump Station represents the location of the first significant Trinity River diversion project. The Pump Station is also identified with important Progressive Era efforts, particularly on the part of social activist women in Dallas, to improve public health in the community. Preserved by the city in 1983 as an important historic and visual landmark near the junction of two major freeways leading into the downtown area, the Pump Station was rehabilitated and adapted for new use as a center for small and mid-size arts groups.

Water Reclamation and Distribution in Dallas 1840s to 1909

From the founding of the town of Dallas by John Neeley Bryan, as well as the surrounding communities on both sides of the Trinity River, in the mid-1840s, water was a critical element that was often in short supply. The cycle of extremely hot summers saw creeks, streams and even the Trinity itself run nearly dry. Yet, in the formative years of Dallas' growth, there was no development of any public utilities. Water for livestock and some irrigation was taken from the river and nearby creeks, but the irregularity of its availability and its muddiness during the spring and fall rainy seasons caused most domestic water users to dig private wells. Although bacterial theories of disease were yet to be discovered, clean and clear water was still preferred by most people for use in laundry, boilers, and drinking.

Following the disastrous fire of 1860, when much of the downtown area was destroyed with no readily available water to fight the blaze, there was some discussion regarding establishment of a public water supply. It would be 1869, however, before steps were taken to provide a public water source. The Browder Springs, located on J.J. Eakins' land less than a mile from the courthouse on the bank of Mill Creek, were dredged and a public announcement made that any citizen could take water from the spring and haul it to their homes. The site today is near Old City Park, most submerged under the IH-30, R.L. Thornton Freeway. For a decade, during which Dallas' population grew from 2,900 to more than 10,000, the public water system consisted of the spring and two tanks located under the downtown sidewalks that stored water for firefighting.

In 1876, Dallas Fire Chief W. C. Connor and several businessmen incorporated the Water Supply Co., in order, it was said, to furnish water to the fire companies and to the newly arrived railroads. The Water Company purchased land near the Browder Springs, and was soon pumping up to 15,000 gallons of springs water daily into a series of wood-stave pipes. Wastewater was drained into storm sewers that dumped back into the Trinity River. After a year, demand was already outstripping supply and a second pump – the "River Pump" – was set in the middle of Ross Avenue downtown to pump water directly from the Trinity River when the springs could not produce an adequate supply. This first diversion of Trinity River water established the beginning of a long battle to retain river water rights for Dallas.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

During an acute water shortage in the summer of 1881, a squabble over the rates being charged by the Water Company to the City resulted in a temporary shutting off of water to the two fire engine companies, the police station, the city hospital and the stock pound. City leaders resolved during the crisis that the municipality should control its own water supply. Thus, the City of Dallas purchased the water system from Chief Connor and his partners in December 1881 for \$65,000 and soon after created the Dallas City Water Works and the position of Superintendent. By 1882, the distribution system had grown to include 5.5 miles of mains, with the Browder Springs pumps running almost constantly and producing more than 300,000 gallons daily. The River Pump was used when demand required additional water, although many potential patrons refused to be connected to the system because of the possibility of getting dirty river water.

Capacity in the system was soon overwhelmed again, and in 1887 the City purchased 71 acres at the mouth of Turtle Creek, three and a half miles up the Trinity from town, where a log and earth dam and a small pump station were built. Steam driven pumps, a standpipe atop nearby Polecat Hill and a 24-inch water main following the MKT railroad tracks into town pumped raw, untreated river water into the city system, with a capacity many times that of the Browder Springs. However, as the Turtle Creek site was located downstream from the mouth of the Trinity's West Fork, wastewater dumped in the West Fork by nearby Fort Worth immediately created problems for Dallas water users.

By the mid-1890s, Browder Springs water was rarely needed, pumped only in late summer when the Trinity was extremely low. The Turtle Creek pumps brought more than 250 million gallons of river water per month into the distribution system. The problems of mud and silt, as well as Fort Worth wastes, in the river continued, with only settling basins at the Turtle Creek Pump Station to remove some mud and other solids. The impurities in the water were so severe that the system could not accommodate water meters because stems and leaves clogged them.

City Council minutes in 1892 reflected the growing concerns about the unsuitability of West Fork Trinity water for drinking. Thus, the city purchased a tract of land on the Elm Fork of the river near Record's Crossing and in 1895 built a dam, pump station and main to bring water from the "cleaner" Record's Crossing reservoir to Turtle Creek and into the system. The Elm Fork water was hailed as "pure and safe" and West Fork water was rarely pumped. However, problems with the wood stave conduit from Record's Crossing soon resulted in numerous patches, breaks and leaks and certainly the water quality was negatively affected. At the end of the century, the 46-acre Turtle Creek complex included the pumping station perched on the bluff overlooking the creek's confluence with the Trinity, the settling basins to the west, and the residence provided for the Water Works' Chief Engineer. The cottage was provided with steam heated from the Pump Station boilers, as was the nearby Parkland Hospital, which had opened in 1894. In 1902, the system's capacity was again expanded with construction of the Bachman Dam and Reservoir, upriver from the Record Crossing Dam, which captured more (dirty) river water for storage and pumping to Turtle Creek.

While the public drinking water supply continued to come from the river, wells supplied specialized water needs to the city, particularly at Turtle Creek. Three nearby wells were drilled at the turn of the century to supply soft, non-corrosive water for the steam boilers at the Pump Station. A fourth well, drilled in 1903 and named for Alderman C.A. Gill (later the designer of the present Pump Station), accidentally penetrated deeper

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

sands that yielded highly mineralized water which quickly became locally famous for its presumed therapeutic qualities. A favored buggy ride on Sundays was out the fashionable Maple Avenue to the Gill Well, adjacent to the Pumping Station, to enjoy the restorative Gill Well water. The Praetorian and Wilson office buildings in downtown Dallas also dug private wells to provide cleaner water for tenants, and the Lemp Brewery's well provided water for beer-making.

The 1903 annexation of Oak Cliff to Dallas brought an entirely separate and purer water supply under the city's control. Relatively clear and clean drinking water from wells and a spring on the limestone bluff above the Trinity was provided to all Oak Cliff citizens by a well-developed and privately owned water and sewer combination. Although Dallas purchased the Oak Cliff system several years after annexation, the two systems (Dallas and Oak Cliff) remained physically separate until 1923. The contrast in drinking water quality caused increasing citizen outrage that civic leaders were ignoring the public health implications of unclean water.

Progressive Women's Public Health Efforts 1890s to 1909

Leadership in Dallas regarding issues of public health and safety at the end of the 19th century rested almost entirely among well-educated and socially prominent women. The problems associated with rapid growth, expanding immigrant populations, dense urban development and poor access to education were being experienced in Dallas as they were across the nation. "Learning to live with many other people within a limited space" was a topic addressed by several of the women's organizations and clubs throughout the city by the mid-1890s. These middle- and upper-class women -- members of the Pierian, Standard and Shakespeare literary and social clubs in Dallas and the Ladies Musicale Club in Oak Cliff among them -- became increasingly concerned about the need to establish and maintain standards for public health and safety and to provide dependable assistance to those in need. As a result, and following national examples, the individual clubs created the Dallas Federation of Women's Clubs in 1898 as a vehicle to not merely discuss the social problems plaguing the community but to initiate solutions to them. Historian Judith McArthur describes the 1890s Progressive Era movement in Dallas as part of a national trend in social activism among women: a "scientific" approach to homemaking and child rearing that linked conditions in the private home to issues affecting and affected by the larger public realm.

Observers described the growing frustration of many women that the male-dominated political system could not or would not address social welfare issues. Although the male civic leaders were knowledgeable regarding "business trends and economic issues, they retained a number of essentially rural assumptions -- for example that each family could make its own arrangements for water, fuel and waste disposal."

The Federation of Women's Clubs membership reached 246 by 1902, limited to those already active in the founding clubs. Interest among non-members was significant enough, however, to encourage the founding of the Dallas Woman's Forum in 1905, open to all interested women. The Forum's membership exceeded 300 by the following year. Together, the Federation of Women's Clubs and the Woman's Forum began demanding that the community reconsider the responsibilities appropriate to government, calling for an expansion of tax-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

supported public services and the "extension of public funding into areas traditionally considered private or simply ignored."

The Federation's early success in obtaining an endowment from Andrew Carnegie to establish a free public library in Dallas (1902) reflected the evolution of women's roles in the community and their influence on political decisions. The clubs' work to establish free kindergartens for immigrant children led to realization that segments of the community were suffering the ill effects of elected officials' unwillingness to accept responsibility for the public's health. Several years of study and public advocacy on the part of the women's groups led to the adoption by the City Council in 1907 of Dallas' first Pure Food and Drug law, which among other things required rudimentary inspection of meats and produce sold in the city's markets and an end to the previously widespread practice of watering milk.

Skillful employment of accepted social techniques the clubwomen knew best helped them to develop effective political strategies and tactics that would have been regarded as appropriate for early 20th century "homemakers." Familiar social forms were cleverly used to put pressure on political leaders: receptions in gracious Maple and Ross Avenue homes allowed for subtle lobbying of elected officials, and "ladies teas" served to recruit supporters.

The clubwomen's concerns soon turned to the issue of the public water supply, its sources and particularly its purity. The opening of the Bachman Reservoir in 1902 brought far cleaner and presumably safer upstream water into the Dallas municipal system, but city officials intended to mix the Bachman water with water from all other sources. Despite the area's long history of outbreaks of typhoid fever and "vague, undiagnosed illnesses," the plan was to treat the water with chemicals only when outbreaks occurred. The terrific Trinity River flood of 1908, which caused millions of dollars in damage to large sections of the city and destroyed much of its infrastructure, including portions of the Turtle Creek Water Works, only made matters worse.

Building the New Pump Station at Turtle Creek 1909

The clubwomen's pressure to address the water quality issue was intensifying as the new Turtle Creek station was erected beginning in July 1908 and opened in 1909 to replace the flooded-out building. The new structure would be larger, with additional pumps and boilers to respond to increasing demand in the growing city.

Architect C.A. Gill, a former city alderman and water commissioner, was responsible for the design of the new Pump Station at Turtle Creek. His architectural practice first listed in the Dallas City Directories in 1889, Charles Gill seems to have been a self-trained carpenter, contractor and building designer who had come to Dallas in 1874. He quickly became involved in Dallas civic affairs, serving one term as a city alderman in 1883-84 and again from 1900 to 1907, while during most of the intervening years he served on and presided over the Board of Education. Gill has been credited with designing a charming Queen Anne mansion on Dallas' fashionable Ross Avenue in 1891 for meat packing magnate J.S. Armstrong, founder of the communities of Oak Cliff and Highland Park. That prestigious commission no doubt led to other important work, including homes

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

and commercial properties in both Dallas and nearby Terrell, Texas, although other documented works have yet to be identified. Gill's and his two sons' architectural practice continued to be listed in local directories until 1910. Gill died after a traffic accident in 1916 at age 79.

The new Turtle Creek Station began pumping in late 1909 and was soon at capacity: still another severe autumn drought in 1910 would require the private Praetorian, Wilson and Lemp wells to be tapped for public use, with 40 wagons hauling water to distressed neighborhoods daily. The City Commission (Council) began to focus on a bond election that would provide funds to purchase 1,000 acres of farmland on White Rock Creek to create still another reservoir.

The women's organizations recognized that, although officials understood that plentiful water would stimulate economic growth, they tended to accept very little responsibility for the well-being of the public. Having found wanting the authorities' plans, the Federation and Forum embarked on a five-year campaign to insist that a filtration complex be developed to purify all the water in the system. Speeches, letters to newspaper editors, petitions to city government and lobbying of the powerful Citizens Association (the all-male business leaders who controlled municipal government) were produced by the Woman's Forum and Federation. Leading the effort for a purer water supply were several of the "proper and genteel activists" among the nearly 1,200 clubwomen who constituted the membership of 26 clubs and organizations affiliated with the Dallas Federation of Women's Clubs.

Isidore Miner Callaway, whose pen name -- Pauline Periwinkle -- bylined her influential weekly columns in the *Dallas Morning News*, editorialized regarding the public health issues of impure drinking water. Founding president of the Federation, May (Mrs. Henry) Exall, no doubt offered her considerable influence in the community to the cause. Adela Kelsey (Mrs. E.P.) Turner, leader of the 1906 - 1907 pure milk and food ordinance battle and founder and first president of the Dallas Woman's Forum in 1906, encouraged her fellow clubwomen to educate themselves and the community about the issues. Vernice Reppert, president of the Federation from 1909 - 1910 and also an activist in the Dallas women's suffrage movement, also participated.

It was Mrs. J.J. Hardin, however, who was described as the "militant crusader for a pure water supply." Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Charles M. Bland had presented a report to the Federation's monthly meeting in late 1908 based on their research of other cities' filtration systems, including those of New Orleans and St. Louis. Later presentations brought recommendations that further "education and agitation [were] advised" and five fellow clubwomen were assigned to present additional research papers. Mrs. W.C. Craig joined Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Bland as the Water Filtration Committee in 1909 and in March 1910 they presented still another paper describing the successful operations of the New Orleans water purification plant, concluding "If New Orleans can have clean water, why may not Dallas?"

Elected President of the Dallas Federation for the 1910 - 1911 term, Mrs. Hardin invited each of the City Commissioners to her inaugural meeting to hear a presentation on the water purification issue, and she eventually secured the promise of the powerful Citizen's Association to include a platform plank demanding a filtration plant.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

First Filtration Plant at Turtle Creek 1913

As a result, another bond election was passed in 1913 to fund construction of the city's first water filtration facility. The ruins of the old pumping station, located west of the new 1909 Turtle Creek Pump Station, were finally torn down and the filtration plant opened in November of 1914 (see Photo 9). The nearby settling basins were altered to accommodate chemical treatment of water, and chlorination and filtration was at last provided system-wide. Again, the success of citizens' efforts to persuade municipal officials to address the public health issues of water policy led to further advocacy efforts, and in 1917 the clubs' members observed the opening of a sewage treatment facility that ended the practice of dumping raw sewage into the Trinity River.

The population of Dallas exploded at the century's beginning, from 43,000 in 1900 to 159,000 in 1920, and although the demand for more water sources continued unabated, the issue of public safety had at last been answered at the Turtle Creek complex. By the second decade's end, the Water Works at Turtle Creek represented the central distribution and coordination point for a water system that included six dams, two large off-river reservoirs, clarification and chlorinating facilities and sewage treatment capability. The Pumping Station was also the site of pioneering early 20th century experiments in oil-fired steam boilers. Water Works Chief Engineer J.M. Bassett had recognized the opportunity for an inexpensive and ready supply of fuel in the newly discovered oil fields around Corsicana, southeast of Dallas. Bassett arranged with developers in the Corsicana fields for supplies of oil to conduct special tests and finally conversion of the wood- and coal-fired Turtle Creek boilers to oil.

In 1927, the main offices of the Pumping Division for operations and maintenance were centralized at Turtle Creek and remained there until 1957. As the system expanded and new facilities were added in the late 1920s, the Turtle Creek treatment plant was shut down, although treated water from White Rock was pumped to the Turtle Creek holding basins for use in the system at peak hours. When the Bachman Treatment Plant opened in 1930, Turtle Creek's pumps were shut down permanently.

Closure, Abandonment and Rehabilitation 1930 - 1983

The Pumping and Purification complex lost not only its functional relationship but its physical proximity to the Trinity River as well by the early 1930s. The long-planned project to straighten the river and confine it within a massive new levee system was finally completed by 1931. The new channel of the Trinity was moved nearly a mile to the southwest of the old channel, opening up new land for mostly industrial development near the Turtle Creek Station and Reservoir. The old settling ponds and newer reservoir were thus rendered obsolete only sixteen years after the landmark water filtration plant opened there.

In 1939, the Dallas Independent School District demolished the reservoir, settling basins and filtration plant at Turtle Creek and with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed the 22,000 seat Dallas High School Stadium and Fieldhouse on the historic site. Re-named P.C. Cobb Stadium in later years after the school district's venerated director of athletics, the facility occupied the site adjacent to the Turtle Creek Station for 40 years.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Turtle Creek still served as the headquarters for the Dallas Water Utilities Pumping Division maintenance department, even after the building's southwest corner and the large brick smokestack were removed in a 1953 remodeling that responded to construction by the City of Dallas of the new, immediately adjacent Harry Hines Boulevard interchange with Oak Lawn Avenue. The engine room portion of the building was partially removed and its remnant used as a welding shop, leaving intact the high-ceilinged boiler room on the east end to be used as a machine shop for repair work. Finally abandoned – except for large equipment storage -- by the Dallas Water Utilities department in 1959, the Pumping Station structure remained nearly empty and deteriorating for more than 20 years, while hundreds of thousands of commuters rushed past its sturdy red brick walls. In 1981, the city's Department of Cultural Affairs joined with the non-profit Sammons Center for the Arts to save the building, and in 1983 began its rehabilitation use as an office, rehearsal and performance facility for small and emerging arts groups. The simple columned entry feature that had been lost during several remodelings was re-created on the building's north elevation, and a large rehearsal and performance hall, along with smaller offices and classrooms, were carefully inserted in the large open spaces of the remaining boiler and engine room spaces.

The simple, industrial character of the structure has been retained while a new public use has brought fresh attention and fondness for the Turtle Creek Pump Station to younger generations of Dallasites. The property meets Criterion A at a local level of significance, for its association with the development of water reclamation and conservation in early Dallas and the progressive social and political environment in the community, particularly among social activist women, that led to reforms and improvements in the water distribution system and public health in Dallas.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 15

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Major Bibliographical References

Bolding, M.E. and Erie H., *Origin and Growth of the Dallas Water Utilities*, privately published, 1981

City of Dallas, Turtle Creek Pump Station Landmark Designation Report, 1981

Dallas City Directories, 1885 - 1950

Dallas Morning News various numbers, 1916, 1918, 1921 - 26, 1930, 1970

Dallas Times Herald, various numbers, 1916, 1959

Enstam, Elizabeth York, *Women and the Creation of Urban Life, Dallas, Texas 1843 - 1920*, Texas A & M University Press, College Station, Texas, 1998

Fuka, Nancy K., Recorded Texas Historic Landmark nomination, Texas Historical Commission files, Austin, Texas, 1983

McArthur, Judith N., *Creating the New Woman: the Rise of Southern Women's Progressive Culture in Texas, 1893 - 1918*, University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Illinois, 1998.

McDonald, William L., *Dallas Rediscovered: A Photographic Chronicle of Urban Expansion 1870 - 1925*, The Dallas Historical Society, Dallas, Texas, 1978.

Past Presidents' Association, ed., *History of the Dallas Federation of Women's Clubs 1898 - 1936*, Clyde C. Cockrell & Sons, Dallas, 1936

Vincent, Louella Styles, publ., *Dallas Clubwoman*, v.1, #12 and v.2, #20

WPA Dallas Guide & History, reprinted by Texas Center for the Book, University of North Texas Press, 1992

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
	14	705840	3627560

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of Turtle Creek Pump Station is shown on the accompanying map entitled "Turtle Creek Pump Station Boundary," and is further described as Block 1/1000, .0825 acres, City of Dallas. (see continuation sheet 10-16)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination includes the building and immediately adjacent grounds historically associated with the building, and exclude those properties originally associated with the Turtle Creek Pump Station that are occupied by new construction.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Gregory Smith & John W. Murphey, THC Historians)

NAME/TITLE: Ron Emrich, Principal

ORGANIZATION: Urban Prospects

DATE: February 10, 2000

STREET & NUMBER: 540 Woolsey Drive

TELEPHONE: (214) 942-2202

CITY OR TOWN: Dallas

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 75224

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-17 through Photo-18)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: City of Dallas Cultural Affairs, Margie Reese, Director

STREET & NUMBER: 1500 Marilla

TELEPHONE: (214) 670-4076

CITY OR TOWN: Dallas

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 75201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 16

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Turtle Creek Pump Station Boundary survey (see reverse)

TO ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN PREMISES SURVEYED:
This is to certify that I have, this date, made a careful and accurate survey on the ground of the following described property:

BEING all that certain lot, tract or parcel of land situated in the City of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas out of City Block 17000 is - the James A. Sylvester Survey, Lot 100, 1000, said tract being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the Northeast right of way line of Harry Hines Boulevard and the Southwest line of Dallas North Tollway, said point also being in a curve to the right whose central angle is $33^{\circ} 05' 35''$ and whose center bears N $49^{\circ} 55' 10''$ E at 1070.92 feet;

THENCE with said Northeast right of way line of Harry Hines Boulevard and said curve to the right, 57.56 feet to the beginning of a curve to the right whose central angle is $1^{\circ} 55' 22''$ and whose center bears N $53^{\circ} 20' 15''$ E at 2216.83 feet;

THENCE along the Northeast right of way line of Harry Hines Boulevard and said curve to the right, 74.19 feet to a point for corner;

THENCE S $54^{\circ} 51' 37''$ W and continuing along the right of way line of Harry Hines Boulevard a distance of 34.0 feet to a point for corner, said point being in a curve to the right whose central angle is $4^{\circ} 54' 55''$ and whose center bears N $55^{\circ} 17' 42''$ E at 144.31 feet;

THENCE continuing with the Northeast right of way line of Harry Hines Boulevard along said curve to the right a distance of 71.59 feet to a point for corner;

THENCE N $33^{\circ} 14' 15''$ W and continuing along said Northeast right of way line of Harry Hines Boulevard a distance of 93.25 feet to a point for corner, said point being the beginning of a curve to the right whose central angle is $90^{\circ} 35' 44''$ and whose center bears N $61^{\circ} 24' 18''$ E at distance of 117.0 feet;

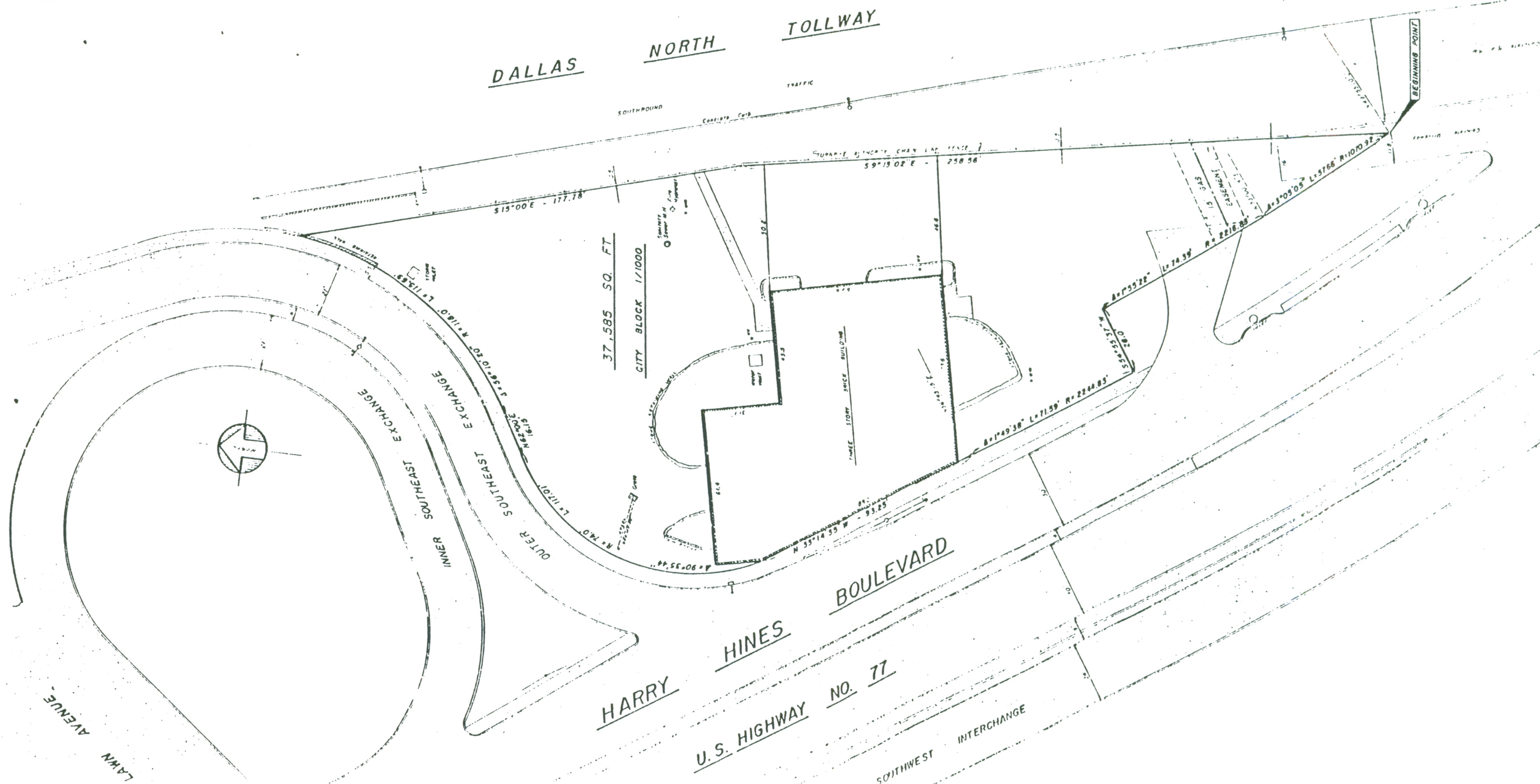
THENCE along said curve to the right and concentric with the Southwest right of way line of Dallas North Tollway a distance of 117.01 feet to a point for corner;

THENCE N $62^{\circ} 00' 00''$ E a distance of 18.15 feet to the beginning of a curve to the left whose central angle is $56^{\circ} 10' 10''$ and whose center bears N $28^{\circ} 00' 00''$ W at 118.0 feet;

THENCE along said curve to the left and concentric with the Southwest right of way line of Dallas North Tollway a distance of 115.69 feet to a point for corner in the Southwest right of way line of Dallas North Tollway;

THENCE S $15^{\circ} 00' 00''$ E along the Southwest right of way line of Dallas North Tollway a distance of 177.78 feet to a point for corner;

THENCE S $08^{\circ} 11' 08''$ E and continuing along the Southwest line of said Dallas North Tollway a distance of 358.55 feet to the Place of Beginning and containing 17,585 Square Feet of Land.



The plat herein is a true, correct and accurate representation of the property as determined by survey, subject to any and all easements, reservations and restrictions that may be of record, the lines and dimensions of said property being as indicated by the plat, the improvements being within the boundaries of the property, set back from the property the distances indicated and the distance to the nearest intersecting street or road is as shown on said plat.

Revised October 25, 1981
Date: October 15, 1981
Scale: 1" = 20'
Book: 1981-101
Page: 286
REGISTERED PUBLIC SURVEYOR #15976
JAMES A. SYLVESTER

BOUNDARY SURVEY
TURTLE CREEK PUMP STATION
CITY BLOCK NO. 17000
CITY OF DALLAS, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
FOR: TURTLE CREEK CENTER FOR THE ARTS BY: DAVID PETREE
1630 HARRY HINES BOULEVARD REGISTERED
DALLAS, TEXAS SURVEYOR NO.
3703 3037-E
DATE: OCTOBER, 1981
DALLAS, TEX.
JAMES A. SYLVESTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 17

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Photographs

Turtle Creek Pump Station
3630 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas
Photographed by Ron Emrich, unless otherwise noted
January 2000, unless otherwise noted
Negatives on file with the Texas Historical Commission, unless otherwise

Photo No.1 of 9

Exterior, north elevation
Camera facing southwest

Photo No. 2 of 9

Interior
Camera facing south
Photographer: unknown
Date: unknown
Negatives on file with Texas/Dallas History Collection, Dallas Public Library

Photo No. 3 of 9

Exterior, south elevation
Camera facing south

Photo No. 4 of 9

Exterior oblique, south and east elevations
Camera facing northwest

Photo No. 5 of 9

Interior, first floor rehearsal hall
Camera facing east

Photo No. 6 of 9

Interior, lobby
Camera facing east

Photo No. 7 of 9

Interior, fourth floor recital hall
Camera facing south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 18

Turtle Creek Pump Station
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Photo No. 8 of 9

Exterior oblique, south and northwest elevations

Camera facing northeast

Photographer: unknown

Date: ca. 1910

Negatives on file with Texas/Dallas History Collection, Dallas Public Library

Photo No. 9 of 9

Exterior oblique, west elevation (left), Purification Plant (right)

Camera facing southeast

Date: ca. 1915

Photographer: unknown

Negatives on file with Texas/Dallas History Collection, Dallas Public Library

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Turtle Creek Pump Station
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Dallas

DATE RECEIVED: 1/12/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/22/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/08/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/27/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01000103

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2/9/01 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

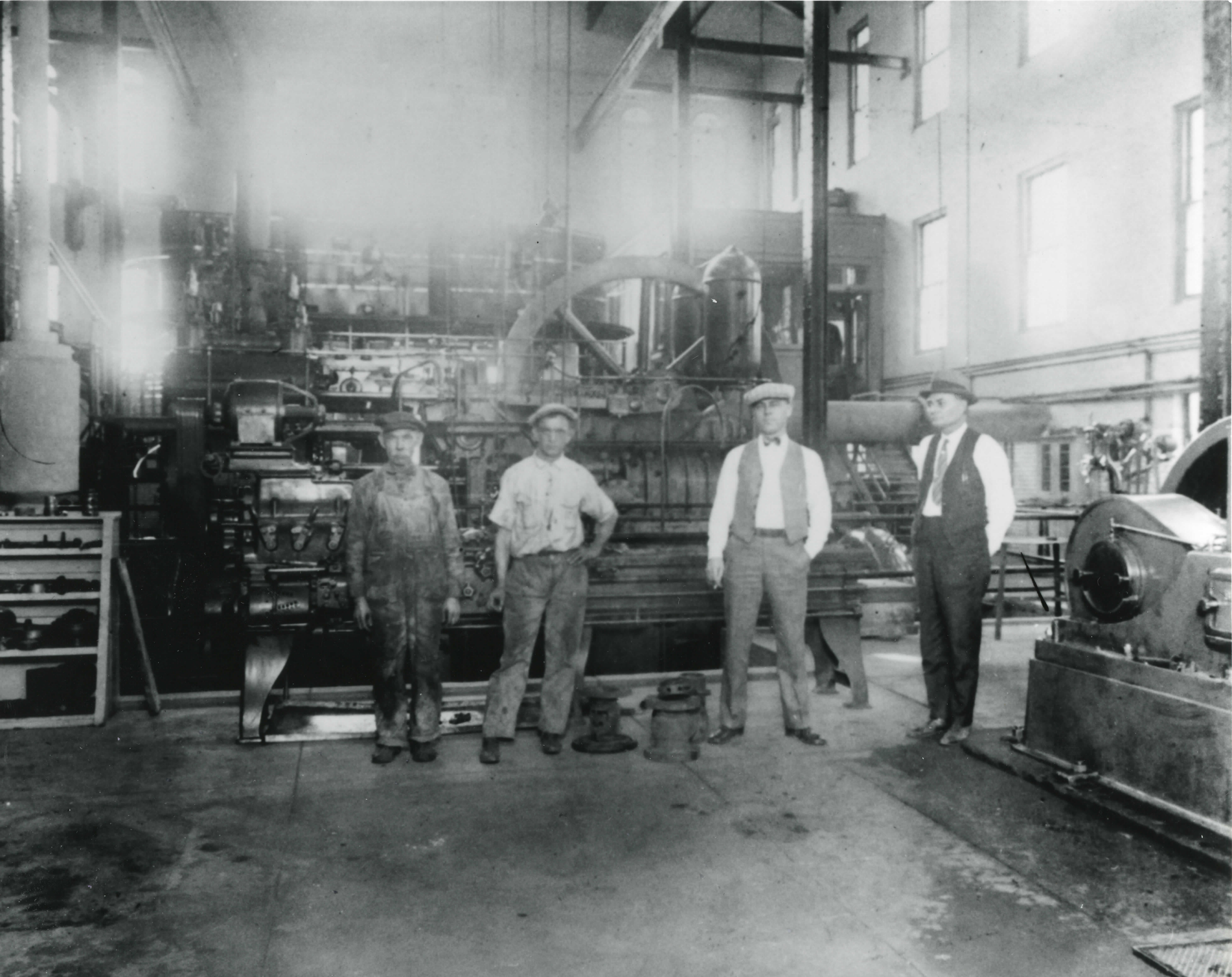
REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



TURTLE CREEK PUMP STATION
3630 HARRY HINES BOULEVARD
DALLAS, DALLAS CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 9



TURTLE CREEK PUMP STATION
3630 HARRY HINES BOULEVARD
DALLAS, DALLAS CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 9



OAK L
RIGHT

TURTLE CREEK PUMP STATION
3630 HARRY HINES BOULEVARD
DALLAS, DALLAS CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 9



TURTLE CREEK PUMP STATION
3630 HARRY HINES BOULEVARD
DALLAS, DALLAS CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 9



TURTLE CREEK PUMP STATION
3630 HARRY HINES BOULEVARD
DALLAS, DALLAS CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 5 of 9



TURTLE CREEK PUMP STATION
3630 HARRY HINES BOULEVARD
DALLAS, DALLAS CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 6 of 9



TURTLE CREEK PUMP STATION
3630 HARRY HINES BOULEVARD
DALLAS, DALLAS CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 7 of 9



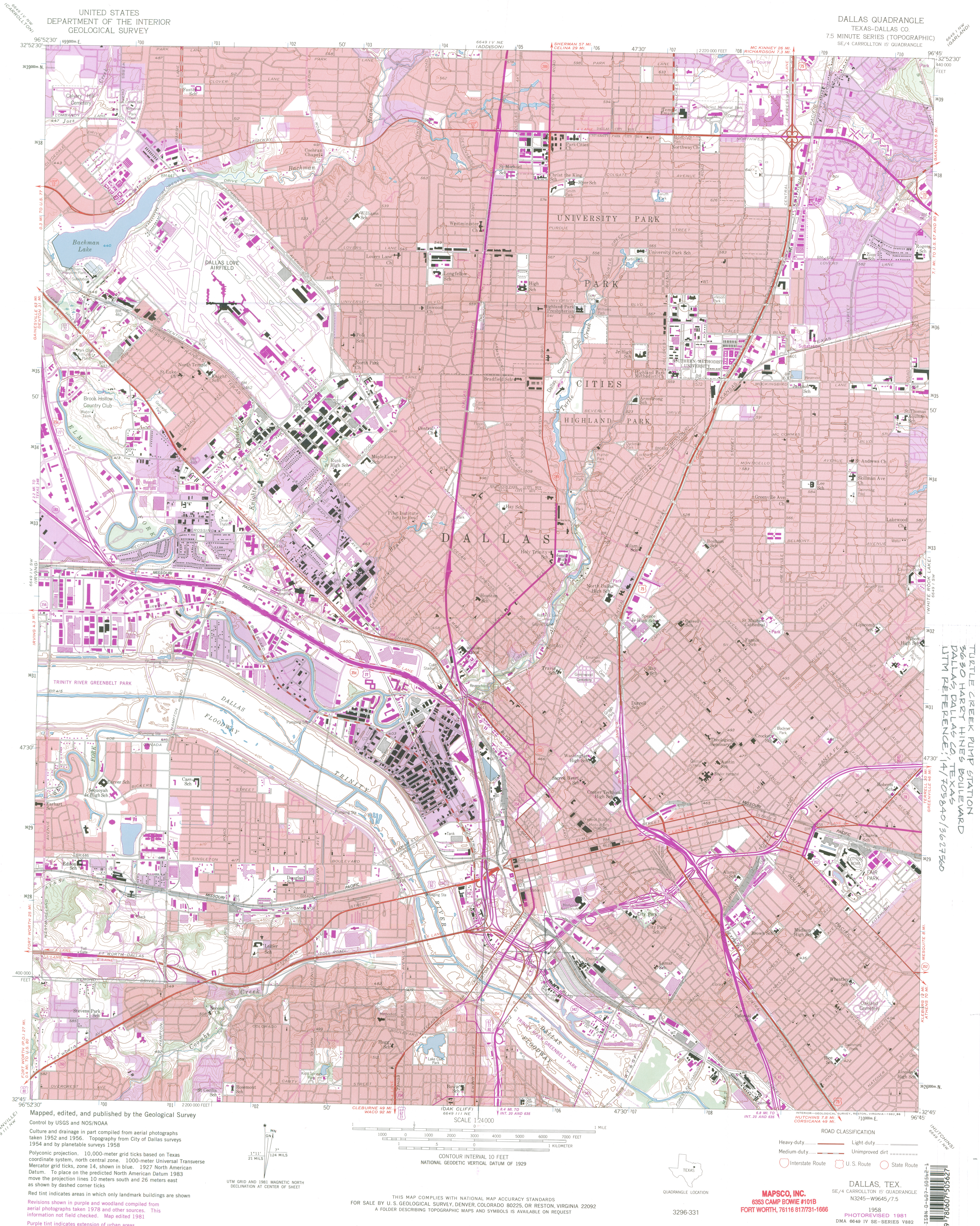
TURTLE CREEK PUMP STATION
3630 HARRY HINES BOULEVARD
DALLAS, DALLAS CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 8 of 9



FROM THE
COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY

TURTLE CREEK PUMP STATION
3030 HARRY HINES BOULEVARD
DALLAS, DALLAS CO., TEXAS

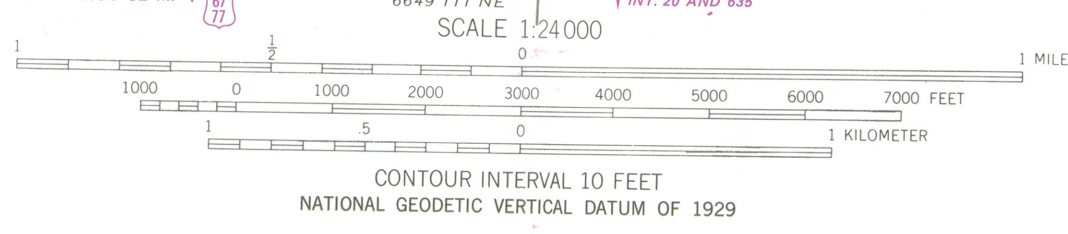
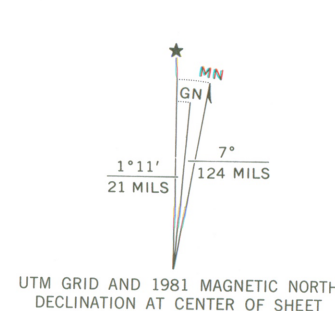
PHOTOGRAPH 9 of 9



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DALLAS QUADRANGLE
TEXAS-DALLAS CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 CARROLLTON 15' QUADRANGLE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1952 and 1956. Topography from City of Dallas surveys
1954 and by planetable surveys 1958
Polyconic projection. 10,000-meter grid ticks based on Texas
coordinate system, north central zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse
Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue. 1927 North American
Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 10 meters south and 26 meters east
as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1978 and other sources. This
information not field checked. Map edited 1981
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt

○ Interstate Route ○ U.S. Route ○ State Route

DALLAS, TEX.
SE/4 CARROLLTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N3245-W9645/7.5

1958
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 6649 IV SE-SERIES V882

MAPSCO, INC.
6363 CAMP BOWIE #101B
FORT WORTH, 76116 817731-1666

3296-331

ISBN 0-607-50512-1

TURTLE CREEK PUMP STATION
3630 HART HINES BOULEVARD
DALLAS DALLAS CO TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14T05840/3627560