

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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MAY 04 2012

OMB No. 1024-0018

352

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Oakdale Park

Other name/site number: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 1019 NE Barnard St.

City or town: Glen Rose

State: Texas

County: Somervell

425

Not for publication: ☐

Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this

☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

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

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Mark Wolfe
Signature of certifying official / Title

State Historic Preservation Officer

5/2/12
Date

Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other, explain: _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

6/15/2012
Date of Action

Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

<input type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

Category of Property

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
26	12	buildings
1	0	sites
2	1	structures
0	1	objects
29	14	total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation; sports facility; music facility
DOMESTIC: camp, single dwelling (tourist cottage)

Current Functions: RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation; sports facility; music facility
DOMESTIC: camp, single dwelling (tourist cottage)

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th and 20th Century American Movements: Craftsman
NO STYLE

Principal Exterior Materials: Concrete, Wood, Stone (limestone, petrified wood)

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-8 through 7-21)

Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Narrative Description

Oakdale Park is a 14.56-acre campground and cottage park nestled along the northern banks of the Paluxy River eight-tenths of a mile east of the Somervell County Courthouse Square. Oakdale Park's configuration follows the contours of the Paluxy River, which flows from west to east through Glen Rose alongside Barnard Street. Oakdale Park is across Barnard Street from Big Rocks Park, a day-swimming destination featuring large limestone boulder outcroppings along the riverbank. Oakdale Park Historic District is a contiguous historic site containing 38 buildings, three structures, and one object. Today, the park also contains 105 recreational vehicle sites, reflecting the continuum of history that led to the park's development from a wagon camping spot to a 1920s auto tourism camp to a popular recreational vehicle park. Oakdale Plunge, a 310,000-gallon swimming pool built in 1925, is the centerpiece of the park's mid-1920s layout and intact circulation network. Among the buildings in the park are 23 camp cottages built during the 1920s and 1930s, the original bathhouse, and a casino where orchestras played for dancing visitors.

Description

Oakdale Park opened to the public on May 1, 1925. Built by Henry J. Cox, Oakdale joined the 174 auto tourist camps developed in Texas by 1924.¹ Mr. Cox purchased the land where Oakdale Park is located from H.M. "Sam" Martin on July 16, 1924 for \$6,000.² Three years later, Mr. Cox purchased a 10-acre parcel of land for \$8,000 from Mr. Martin and others that adjoined Oakdale Park to the west. This 10-acre tract was the historic location of Martin Park, where early tourists camped in wagons under trees around a flowing well. Today, Oakdale Park contains most of these two parcels of land.

This description of Oakdale Park Historic District will first address the site and landscape features and then describe the structures and buildings in the park.

Park Site

An undated map of Glen Rose, circa 1924 to 1927, depicts Oakdale Park symmetrically platted into lots. The map indicates two main roads in the park running south to north on either side of the swimming pool. But Mary Elizabeth Buzan Bell of Glen Rose, who was born in 1917, remembers from her youth the existing circulation network, featuring an oval-shaped roadway around the pool. The main entrance road leading north from Barnard Street is true to the 1925 design, although edging and hedges that lined the roadway in old photographs are now gone, as are some of the trees. The entry road leads straight into the large oval roadway built to surround the swimming pool. The oval roadway is still intact, as are the roads branching off of it leading to camp cottages and tent sites. Between the entry road and the swimming pool is a road leading west, which runs parallel to Barnard Street. This road originally ran through the park and curved south toward Barnard Street, providing additional access to and egress from the park. Where it once turned to the south toward the city street, this road now turns north into the park.

In 1963, Alton "Whimp" May and Geneva "Pete" May purchased Oakdale Park from the Cox family. Mr. May said that the roads in the eastern two-thirds of the park, which was the original 1924 purchase by Mr. Cox, are the same today as when the Mays purchased the park in 1963. Mr. May said the roads were historically dirt and

¹ "Welcome to Oakdale Park!" <http://www.oakdalepark.com/> and Dwayne Jones, "A Place Like Home, the Rise and Fall of the Tourist Camp in Texas," *The Medallion, Preservation News in Texas* (March 1990): 1.

² Somervell County Deed Records, Book R, 549.

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gravel. Before the Mays purchased the park, the city brought in 80 dump trucks of gravel in June 1963.³ In an interview at the park, Mr. May said that they continued that tradition, bringing in gravel for the roads each spring to prepare for the summer season.⁴ In June 2011, the City of Glen Rose treated the park roads with aggregate over one-quarter inch of asphalt emulsion, which has the look of gravel.

Oakdale Park's playground is still in its original location, west of the oval road on the west side of the pool. The playground is also north of the original east-west road that runs parallel to Barnard Street. Over the years, playground equipment located there has evolved. Children once played on a push-and-jump merry-go-round that Mr. Cox built there. Today, the park contains a swing set, a small jungle gym, and a basketball net.

Original objects in the park that remain from its development in the 1920s are six concrete and limestone picnic tables and benches located under the large pavilion west of the entry road, and a stone wall and outdoor cooking fireplace located north of the pavilion. West of the large pavilion is an original stonewall, which is located north of a shelter now known as the outdoor kitchen. There is a 1920s-era limestone and concrete picnic table with its benches located west of the oval road west of the swimming pool, across the road from the original concession stand. There are three mid-1920s era limestone and concrete benches in the northeast corner of Oakdale, just across the road from two petrified wood cottages located there. In the middle of the oval road west of the swimming pool is an old limestone-edged flowerbed planted with boxwoods and two trees. Mrs. May wrote that Eugene Connally of Glen Rose helped build these original landscaping and rock features in Oakdale Park.

After the Mays purchased the park in 1963, they built a stone-edged fire circle across the oval road east of the swimming pool. From the oval roadway north of the swimming pool, the park's main road continues north and splits into a "Y" formation. In the middle of the "Y" formation, the Mays built a rock flowerbed planted with irises. When the Mays purchased Oakdale Park, the white picket fence that originally ran along Barnard Street at the front of the park was gone. The only fencing remaining was a small barbed wire fence built along the front of the park or southern boundary, which extended around to the eastern boundary of the park. When the Mays began holding bluegrass music festivals at Oakdale Park during the 1970s, they built the current chain link fence that surrounds the park's perimeter so they could charge admission.

Area members of Woodmen of the World erected the flagpole just south of the swimming pool shortly after the Mays purchased Oakdale Park. For years, they would bring a new American flag to Oakdale at the opening of each summer season. The flagpole is still there, and is right at the end of the entry road, so the flag is visible to all who come to Oakdale Park. Vegetation and plantings at Oakdale include grass in the tent camping areas, picnicking spaces, and playground. There are many trees located throughout Oakdale Park, including live oaks, post oaks, American elms, cedar elms, pecans, junipers, hackberries, and an exceptional colony of Eve's Necklace. Mr. May said that they never removed a tree from the park during the years they owned it from 1963 through 2009. At one time, Oakdale Park was covered with rose bushes, which no longer remain in the park.

With its winding roadways, majestic shade trees, and limestone and concrete benches and tables, the eastern two-thirds of the Oakdale Park site, which Henry J. Cox developed in 1924 and 1925, retains a high degree of integrity to the period of significance, 1924 to 1967, and is contributing to the historic district.

³ Geneva May, "Glen Rose as a Recreation Center, unpublished manuscript presented to the Somervell County Historical Society in 1967, Somervell County Historical Commission Collections.

⁴ Interview with Alton and Geneva May at Oakdale Park by author, June 18, 2011.

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First Travel Trailer Sites

When the Mays purchased Oakdale Park in 1963, the park offered tent camping or overnight stays in cottages. There were no camper, travel trailer, or recreational vehicle sites at Oakdale. Mr. and Mrs. May said that people first began bringing campers on the back of pick-up trucks, then travel trailers, and then recreational vehicles. In 1967, the Mays added 101 sites for travel trailers with hook-ups on the east end of the park.⁵ This area, east of the swimming pool, is still used for trailers and recreational vehicles. Today, it has 37 sites, rather than 101, mostly because of the increased size required for vehicles, trailers and recreational vehicles. The trailer sites that the Mays built around the park's casino building have been converted to day parking for vehicles. Oakdale's early travel trailer site also retains a tent camping area original to the park. This site retains a high degree of integrity to 1967, when Oakdale Park first accommodated travel trailers, and it is contributing to the historic district.

Motor Home Sites

As travel trailers grew to fully contained recreational vehicles, the Mays developed the west one-third of the park, which was overgrown with weeds and brush when they purchased the property. They first cleared the area and allowed it to be used by a horse-riding club whose members camped there. During the 1970s, the Mays added five straight roads running west from behind existing cottages toward the western boundary of the park. These roads resemble outstretched fingers in a hand. Along the western edge of the park, these roads end at a road that runs north and south within the park boundaries, or along the tops of the "finger" roads, perpendicular to them. When they developed the west side of Oakdale during the 1970s, the Mays built a series of limestone terraces along the western boundary of the park. As the electrical demands of recreational vehicles grew, the Mays had to put in larger electrical transformers at Oakdale Park.⁶

The western third of the park was the original location of Martin Park, Oakdale's early wagon camping predecessor. It is in this area of Oakdale Park where two of its original artesian mineral water wells were located. One was situated just west of recreational vehicle site no. 68 along the southern boundary of the park. Mr. May said there was petrified wood around the well, and Mrs. Bell remembers a concrete well structure there.⁷ Mr. May indicated that this well stopped flowing about three or four years after the family purchased the property. Today, there is no marker or structure indicating where the well was located. Oakdale Park's third flowing well was located in the northwest corner of the park, and Mr. May said that this is where old-timers remembered camping in wagons at Martin Park. This well was not flowing when the Mays purchased the park, and today there is no marker or structure indicating where the well was located. Although this western one-third of today's Oakdale Park is the location of early wagon camping, today it does not retain integrity to the period of significance, since most of the roads and features there were built during the 1970s.

Structures

Oakdale Park's entrance road from Barnard Street leads straight to the centerpiece of the eastern two-thirds of the park: Oakdale Plunge, its 310,000-gallon swimming pool. Henry J. Cox had Oakdale Plunge built in 1924 to 1925. Workers dug the pool out with teams of mules and lined it with concrete. Mr. Cox filled Oakdale Plunge with sulfur mineral water from a flowing artesian well located at the southwest corner of the pool. Old photos show the rectangular-shaped pool filled with bathers who used a diving platform and a sliding board, which

⁵ May, "Glen Rose as a Recreation Center."

⁶ Interview with Mays by author.

⁷ Interview with Mays by author and Personal Interview with Mary Elizabeth Buzan Bell by author, July 8, 2011.

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were located at the southeast corner of the pool. A horizontal wall inside the pool toward the north end separated the "kiddie pool," and a horizontal wall inside the pool toward the south end separated the deep end of the pool. The first year Oakdale Plunge was open, there was no fence surrounding it. But Mr. Cox had trouble with late night swimmers hoping to evade the admission fee, so the next year he erected a chain-link fence around the pool, which is in place in old photographs.⁸

Today, Oakdale Plunge looks very much like it did when it was new in the 1920s. The Mays replaced the old wooden diving platform with two metal diving boards. They also added limestone veneer to the outside face of the short concrete wall enclosing the pool, and installed limestone on the concrete decking surrounding the pool. They expanded the fenced-in area around the pool using the original chain-link fence and built a short limestone and wood wall around the pool's perimeter. Today, much of the chain-link fence along the east side of the pool is covered with trumpet vines. The pool's new concrete interior, installed this year, joins up against the existing concrete liner. The two horizontal walls within the pool are still there. According to Mrs. May, it is these two dividing walls, along with the gradual slope from the shallow to deeper end (north to south) of Oakdale Plunge that has ensured swimmer safety. Since the pool opened in 1925, no one has ever drowned in Oakdale Plunge.

Oakdale's third flowing well was located at the southwest corner of the pool, and the pool's original pump house was also located there. The pump house features a short concrete well cover topped with an iron manhole cover. Mr. May covered the original wood siding of the pump house and the concrete well cover with limestone. Like the flowing well along the south edge of the park, this well ran during the winter months for three or four years after the Mays purchased Oakdale. It stopped flowing altogether by the late 1960s. Today, contemporary pipes and filters located just north of the pump house are surrounded by chain-link fencing and a small wood structure. This equipment is not shown in old photographs of the swimming pool, although Mr. Cox installed the pool's first filters in 1928 at a cost of \$2,500.⁹

Historic photos show a frame pergola and small frame building along the east side of the pool. The gabled music building housed a radio or nickelodeon, providing music for swimmers when the pool was open. Neither of these structures remains there today. The same old photo of the swimming pool depicts lights atop wooden poles and strings of lights between them.

South of the swimming pool and across the top of the oval roadway is a long, narrow tree-covered grassy section. The Mays built a wooden stage here during the 1970s when they began holding bluegrass festivals at Oakdale Park. The stage was not built during the period of significance.

Increasing popularity and use of large recreational vehicles and motor homes brought another significant change to Oakdale Park. During the 1970s, the Mays removed the park's original Craftsman-style entrance. This entrance featured two tapered limestone columns, built of rock from the Paluxy River, which were topped with wood brackets. The brackets supported a hipped roof with exposed rafter tails that stretched across the park's entry road where it adjoined Barnard Street. Motor homes and recreational vehicles had grown so tall that they could no longer fit beneath the entrance. Together with George Norman of Glen Rose, Mr. May replaced it in the 1970s with two limestone walls that flank Oakdale Park's entry today. The City of Glen Rose plans to rebuild a replica of the original entrance at a height that can accommodate the size of recreational vehicles that Oakdale Park now serves.

⁸ May, "Glen Rose as a Recreation Center."

⁹ Ibid.

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Structures and objects that no longer remain at Oakdale Park include a white wooden gazebo that featured a water fountain where mineral water sprang from a fountain. The mineral water came from the flowing well at the southwestern edge of the swimming pool, which also filled the pool. A pipe ran under the roadway from the well to the fountain to make the water available for drinking. Mr. May said he had to tear the gazebo down during the 1980s because it fell into disrepair. Between the gazebo and the owner's house was a landscaped area that featured a white wooden pergola and trellis, which are no longer standing.

The City of Glen Rose recently purchased an undeveloped five-acre tract of land just east of Oakdale Park. Rather than widen the roadways and make other accommodations for the growing size of recreational vehicles, which would impact the historic integrity of the existing park, the city plans to pave and develop this adjacent parcel of land to accommodate larger recreational vehicles. This area is not included in the Oakdale Park Historic District.

Buildings

Most of the buildings in Oakdale Park are frame construction. With one exception, the park's buildings are one-story. They exhibit characteristics of Craftsman-style architecture, such as exposed rafter tails, eave brackets, and gabled porches. According to Mr. May, all of the buildings in Oakdale Park were built with cedar posts as foundations piers. By 1963, when he and his wife purchased the park, the posts were beginning to rot or warp. The Mays eventually replaced the cedar post foundation piers with limestone or concrete masonry units. Mr. May said that the Dempsey brothers of Glen Rose constructed most of the 1920s to 1930s buildings in Oakdale Park, and the buildings exhibit a high degree of craftsmanship.

Bathhouse

The bathhouse was built in 1924 to 1925 at the north end of the pool and it faces south toward the pool. It is a large rectangular frame building with a central opening. On the south elevation, overlooking the swimming pool, there is a large gable over the open central hallway. The gable is supported by double tapered wooden supports resting on limestone piers on each side of the opening. Historic photos show the bathhouse with a painted sign in the gable that reads "Oakdale Plunge," and that sign is in the central gable today. Upon walking through the large center opening, one can enter through doors into either side of the open central hall. Historically, the men's dressing area and showers were to the left or west, and the ladies to the right, or east. Today, dressing rooms and restrooms for both ladies and men are to the left, and the park office is to the right.

When the May family first moved to Oakdale Park in 1963, they converted the dressing area in the east end of the bathhouse into a home where they lived, and used part of it for an office. During the winter of 1963, a multi-inch snow fell in Glen Rose. The load of the snow caused the west end of the bathhouse to fall in. Earl Million, a local contractor, brought jacks and slowly lifted the west end of the bathhouse back into place while it was still wet.

Adaptive use of the bathhouse over the years has resulted in changes to the windows on the south elevation: openings have been enclosed and new windows have been added. There are no historic photos of the building's other elevations, but it appears that doors have been added inside the central hallway and on the west and east elevations of the building. The building is still covered with horizontal wood clapboard, and the tapered wooden supports, central gable, and center hall are still intact. The bathhouse retains integrity to the period of significance and is contributing to the historic district.

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Casino

The casino was also built in 1924 to 1925 along the southern boundary of the park, just north of Barnard Street. When visitors drive through the park's main entrance, the casino is to their right or east. The casino is a rectangular-shaped frame building covered with wooden clapboard. It has a hipped roof with gable dormers on the west and east ends and exposed rafter tails.

Oakdale Park held dances in the casino, where big bands and swing orchestras played throughout the 1920s and 1930s. Mrs. Bell remembers that there were booths with tables lining the north and south interior walls of the casino and there was a stage. During the 1940s, Mr. Cox added a maple floor to the casino and converted it to a skating rink. The maple floor and some of the roller skates are still in the building.¹⁰ In 1963, when the Mays purchased the park, they put 62 squares of shingles on the casino roof and used 82 gallons of paint on the interior.¹¹ After the Mays purchased Oakdale Park, they used the casino as a meeting facility.

Like the bathhouse, adaptive use over the years has brought some changes to the casino. Window openings have been enclosed on the west elevation. During the 1970s, Mr. and Mrs. May enclosed the inset porch on the south elevation and moved the building's entry to the center of the north elevation, where it now opens into Oakdale Park. With these changes in design and materials, the casino has moderate integrity to the period of significance. The casino is integral to the history of Oakdale Park, and is contributing to the historic district.

Concession Stand

West of the swimming pool and just outside the fence, is a frame one-story concession stand. Mrs. Bell remembers the concession stand from her youth in the late 1920s and 1930s. She said park staff members sold cold drinks, ice cream, burgers, hot dogs, and sandwiches there.¹² The concession has a hipped metal roof and is covered with clapboard. Mr. and Mrs. May rehabilitated the concession stand in 1964, during the period of significance. On the east side of the concession stand, there are two openings with roll up covers used for serving customers. These covers replaced wooden flaps that were lifted when the concession stand was open for business. When Mr. and Mrs. May purchased Oakdale Park in 1963, inside the concession stand they discovered an old nickelodeon, which was probably the jukebox originally located in the music building that was located east of the pool. The concession stand has integrity to the period of significance and is contributing to the historic district.

Restrooms

North of the swimming pool and across the oval roadway is an ell-shaped frame restroom building that was built before 1963, and probably dates to the 1920s to 1930s. The restroom has a hipped roof with exposed rafter tails. The south elevation, which faces the road, features a center cross-gable supported by brackets. This appears to have been a shallow porch that has been enclosed. The walls of the restroom building are covered with clapboard. Mr. May built new roof decking and put a new roof on the restrooms during the 1970s when he built the nearby stage. The restroom building exhibits moderate integrity to the period of significance and is contributing to the historic district.

¹⁰ *History and Families, Somervell County, Texas, 1875 – 2001* (Paducah, Kentucky: Turner Publishing Company), 165.

¹¹ May, "Glen Rose as a Recreation Center," 1967.

¹² Interview with Mrs. Bell by author.

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Cottages

At one time during Mr. Cox's ownership (1924 to 1950), Oakdale Park contained 42 cottages for auto tourists and about half of them were built of native stone.¹³ Today, 24 of the cottages remaining in Oakdale were built more than 50 years ago and are contributing to the historic district, along with three that were built or altered after the period of significance and are not contributing. Mrs. May named all of the cottages in the park during the 1960s, which was in keeping with other auto tourism parks in Glen Rose.

Along the north and northeastern edges of the park are 12 cottages that line the park's roadways with modest setbacks allowing for small front yards. Many of these cottages are shown on the 1925 to 1927 map depicting the Oakdale Park Addition with lots platted, but it is difficult to discern exactly which of these cottages in the park today appear on the map. From the time Oakdale Park opened in 1925, Mr. Cox began selling lots to individuals who were then bound by certain covenants and deed restrictions. Many of these people built their own cottages, which became part of Oakdale Park. After Mr. and Mrs. May purchased Oakdale Park, they gradually purchased these cottages back from their individual owners, one by one, until Oakdale Park had its original northern and northeastern boundaries restored.

The 12 cottages described here that line the northern and northeastern edges of Oakdale Park are, from west to east: Peachwood, Sprucedale, Old Corral, Camper, Plumdale, Honeywood, Ferndale, Elmdale, Pinedale, Rosedale, Rockdale, and an unnamed cottage that has never been rehabilitated. All 12 of these cottages have exteriors of native limestone and/or local petrified wood and fossils. Building with huge chunks of petrified wood that farmers unearthed with tractors began to be constructed in Glen Rose in 1927 and continued with enthusiastic fervor into the 1930s. On September 20, 1929, a reporter with the local newspaper, *Glen Rose Reporter*, wrote that O.C. Poole of Cleburne was building a bungalow of petrified wood in Oakdale Park that was 18-feet by 40-feet in size and would be "a very creditable addition to that splendid park." Mr. Poole told the reporter that when he completed his bungalow, he was planning to build a second petrified wood cottage in Oakdale. In the same edition of the local newspaper, Mr. Cox ran this ad on the front page: "Wanted to buy—Unusual specimens of Petrified wood and other building rock—Henry J. Cox, Oakdale Park."¹⁴

Nine of the 12 cottages along the northern and northeastern edges of Oakdale are limestone and petrified wood construction. Three are frame construction with veneers. Seven of these cottages are built in a long rectangular form or folk shotgun plan, yet six of these shotgun-type cottages have hipped rather than front-gabled roofs. All of their entries, except one, are topped with a gable supported by either wood brackets or wood posts. Three of the limestone and petrified wood cottages have a square pyramidal form under hipped roofs and have off-center entries. Two of these cottages have side-gabled metal roofs and originally had clapboard exteriors. Mr. May covered their clapboard exteriors with a mixture of cut and flat limestone during the 1960s. All but three of the cottages feature the exposed rafter tails of Craftsman-style buildings.

Various changes have been made to the exteriors of the cottages over the years. Mr. May filled window openings with vertical wood boards, mostly on the sides of the cottages. But the two side-gabled cottages known as Pinedale and Rosedale, which Mr. May covered with limestone, have window openings in the front enclosed with vertical wood boards. Recently, the City of Glen Rose replaced the double-hung wood windows on three of the cottages with vinyl-clad windows. The only cottage with a second story is known as Old Corral. The second story appears to be an addition, but it was built within the park's period of significance. Mrs. Bell remembers a

¹³ May, "Glen Rose as a Recreation Center."

¹⁴ *Glen Rose Reporter*, September 20, 1929, 1.

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two-story cottage along the northern boundary of the park; she said her brother and his family lived there during the 1940s. When the Mays moved there in 1963, Old Corral had its second floor.

There is one unnamed cottage along the northeast edge of the park that has never been rehabilitated since it was built. It is open to the elements and is deteriorating. It still has its original wooden windows, although they are in bad condition. But its other key architectural elements are intact. In 2010, the City of Glen Rose hired architect Eugene Brode to make preservation and rehabilitation plans for the buildings in Oakdale Park. Included in Mr. Brode's plans are the restoration of existing wood windows where feasible, the replacement of the new vinyl windows installed in three of the cottages with wood windows to match the original, and the installation of wood windows into the filled window openings in some of the cottages.

The 12 petrified wood and limestone cottages along the north and northeastern boundaries of Oakdale Park were built from the late 1920s through the 1930s. Today, these cottages still evoke the feeling of an auto tourism park from the 1920s. With the exception of the unnamed cottage that is not rehabilitated, all of them are still being used as rental cottages. Even with some changes to their materials, the cottages have a good level of integrity and are all contributing to the significance of the Oakdale Park Historic District.

Row of Frame Cottages

North of the stage and just south of the cottage named Old Corral is a row of seven identical small frame cottages. These cottages are aligned along the roadway, just slightly set back from it. They have limestone steps and metal handrails. Each cottage is built in a square, pyramidal form with a hipped roof and exposed rafter tails. They are covered in clapboard and each cottage has two double-hung windows on its front façade—one window on each side of a center doorway.

Mr. Cox built these frame cottages during the 1920s as auto camp cottages. From the ground, they were frame construction about one-third up the height of the wall. Above that level, the walls were open and screened in. Atop each screen was an exterior roller, around which was rolled a canvas flap that could be raised or lowered depending upon the weather. Each cottage originally had a center doorway.

Mr. May said that when he and his wife purchased Oakdale in 1963, these cottages were scattered throughout the east side of the park. The early plat of Oakdale shows a line of buildings along the eastern boundary of the park. In 1964, the Mays moved these small frame cottages to their present location. This provided the Mays with the necessary open space to plat Oakdale Park's first 101 travel trailer camping sites with hookups, which opened in 1967.

The present location of the row of frame cottages was, in 1964, the northern border of the property belonging to Mr. and Mrs. May. They had not yet purchased the stone and petrified wood cottages from the individual owners who had bought them from Mr. Cox. Mr. May built foundations for the frame cottages of limestone and concrete masonry units. He enclosed the screen-in areas of the walls with clapboard to match the existing clapboard on the cottages. He added the windows on either side of the front doors. The Mays continued to rent the cottages to Oakdale Park's visitors.

Although the Mays moved the frame cottages from their original locations, the cottages are still located within the eastern two-thirds of Oakdale Park, and they were moved within the park's period of significance. Moving these cottages allowed for the evolution of Oakdale Park from a camping location for visitors in horse-drawn wagons to a camping spot for 1960s auto-pulled travel trailers. It is this continuum of history that makes

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Oakdale Park significant. This adaptability has also kept Oakdale Park in existence for both residents of Glen Rose and its visitors. The frame cottages are contributing to the Oakdale Park historic district.

Cottages North and West of Swimming Pool

Just west of the concession stand and bathhouse are two auto tourist camp cottages. The southernmost cottage, known as Pecanwood, is a gable-front-and-wing form. It has a gable roof and exposed rafter tails. Its porch has a shed roof supported by metal poles. Pecanwood appears to be frame construction, but it features an exterior of large, flat pieces of limestone laid in a mosaic pattern. The limestone is set with a striking green-colored beaded mortar, interspersed with small pieces of red stone. Pecanwood appears to have been built during the 1930s, and it has a high degree of integrity to the period of significance and is contributing to the historic district.

Just north of Pecanwood is a cottage known as Palmdale. When the Mays purchased Oakdale Park in 1963, this frame cottage appeared to be two cottages that someone had put together, or a cottage with an addition. During the mid-1960s, Mr. May added a mixed cut-and-flat limestone veneer over Palmdale's old clapboard. It appears that Palmdale's high, horizontal front windows have been replaced with aluminum windows. The window opening on the south side of the entry has some wood fill material above the window. As a tourism camp cottage, Palmdale has evolved from two small frame cottages to a limestone ell-shaped cottage. These changes all occurred during the park's period of significance, so Palmdale is contributing to the Oakdale Park Historic District.

North and west of Palmdale is another ell-shaped cottage known as Bunkhouse. This cottage is frame construction with a hipped roof and exposed rafter tails. It features a central projecting entrance, topped with a gable. In 1968, the Mays rehabilitated the Bunkhouse for use as the Glen Rose Art Colony by local artists. Mr. May enclosed the bottom third of the exterior clapboard walls in mixed cut and flat limestone in the central projecting entry and south wing. North of the entry, the cottage's entire façade was covered with mixed limestone. In 1971, the art colony added a wing to the rear of this north half of Bunkhouse, creating an ell-shaped building. Although these changes took place just after the park's period of significance, Bunkhouse retains moderate integrity and is contributing to the historic district.

North and east of Bunkhouse along the park's northern boundary, is a cottage where Mr. and Mrs. May lived at Oakdale Park. This cottage is known as Lily, and like Palmdale, it is two frame cottages joined together to create an ell-shaped building. The cottages were joined together before 1963. While the Mays and their family lived in the east end of the bathhouse, Mr. May rehabilitated Lily during the early 1960s and covered its clapboard exterior with a mixed cut-and-flat limestone veneer. Lily has a hipped metal roof with exposed rafter tails. The front has two small high horizontal windows. Mr. May added a limestone chimney to the back of Lily's west side. Lily's limestone façade and chimney were added during the park's period of significance, so it is contributing to the Oakdale Park Historic District.

Non-Contributing Cottages

Directly west of Lily and along the northern edge of the park, is a cottage that Mr. May built during the 1960s or 1970s. Known as Hangout, this frame cottage has a gable roof, exposed rafter tails and narrow horizontal windows near the roofline. It is covered in sheets of wood siding. Hangout is built upon the location of an old tabernacle that was falling down, so Mr. May removed it. Although Hangout resembles the park's other buildings, it is not contributing to the historic district.

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West of Hangout is a large frame cottage known as Caboose, which Mr. May constructed of three other buildings. Two were 1920s to 1930s frame cottages built in Oakdale Park, which he moved to this site. The other is a frame shelter originally built in nearby Lake View Park. Like Oakdale, Lake View was a popular auto tourism park in Glen Rose. In 1940, Lake View became a children's camp known as Glen Lake Camp when the Central Methodist Conference purchased it.¹⁵

During the 1970s, Mr. May and Earl Million, a local contractor, moved five old shelters from Glen Lake Camp. The 1920s-era shelters were going to be demolished, so Mr. May saved them and moved them to Oakdale Park. He used one of them in the construction of Caboose, which has a hipped roof with a central projecting gabled entry. Caboose has exposed rafter tails and is covered in clapboard siding. It has long horizontal windows built just under its eaves. Mixed limestone and petrified wood cover the bottom third of the projecting entry's walls and provide a skirt for the remainder of the building. Although Caboose resembles the style of Oakdale's other cottages, it is not contributing to the historic district because the three buildings were all moved from their original locations and one came from outside the park.

West of Lily are two petrified wood cottages described earlier known as Peachwood and Sprucedale. On the other side, or west of Sprucedale, is a large ell-shaped building known as Toad. The Sacks family built Toad as a frame home sometime around the 1940s. During the 1970s, Mr. May rehabilitated Toad for use by his son, Gary, and his family as their home. He removed some glass-block windows from the building and covered the wood siding with a mixture of cut and flat limestone. Because these changes were made after the period of significance, Toad is not contributing to the historic district.

Shelters and Pavilions

Three of the shelters from Lake View Park are located at the eastern end of Oakdale's 1970s recreational vehicle sites. Two are used as shelters, and one of them is known as the "Pickin' Shed," where various musicians would gather to play offstage in spontaneous jam sessions during Oakdale Park's bluegrass festivals that began in the 1970s. The City of Glen Rose is now enclosing one of these shelters for use as another bathhouse in the park. The fifth shelter is located south of the playground along the old road that ran east to west through the park. Today it is used as an outdoor kitchen. Since these shelters were moved from outside Oakdale Park after the district's period of significance, they are not contributing to the historic district.

During the 1980s, Mr. May built a large pavilion west of the main entry road. The pavilion covers some of the park's original concrete and stone picnic tables and benches. There are several other wooden picnic tables located beneath the wood pavilion topped with a metal roof and supported by metal poles. Since it was built during the 1980s, the pavilion is not contributing to the historic district.

Along the park's northern boundary, between the May family home known as Lily and the cottage known as Peachwood, is a metal pavilion used as protection for equipment and vehicles and for storage of materials. East of Toad, the other May family home, is a large metal and wooden barn that Mr. May built during the 1960s or 1970s as his workshop. These two buildings are not contributing to the historic district. Directly west of the concession stand is a pavilion-style metal building constructed by Mr. May during the 1970s. Called Karver's Korner, it was built to accommodate woodcarving groups that began gathering at Oakdale Park for festivals and workshops each summer. Karver's Korner is not contributing to the historic district.

¹⁵ May, "Glen Rose as a Recreation Center."

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Summary of Oakdale Park's Resources

Resource	Type	Date of Construction	Status	Notes
1. Circulation networks, rock and concrete benches, rock walls, cooking fireplace, playground, all in east two-thirds of park	Site	1920s	C	Roads and RV spaces in west third of park added as RVs became popular in 1970s. Park roads were dirt and gravel, recently treated with aggregate over asphalt emulsion, 1/4-inch
2. Oakdale Plunge, swimming pool	Structure	1924 - 1925	C	Short stonewall around perimeter added in 1960s, fenced-in area expanded slightly using same chain link fence that was erected in the 1920s, diving platforms and towers replaced. This year, the city had the pool rehabilitated by essentially placing a new concrete liner inside the existing pool
3. Office/Bath House	Building	1924 - 1925	C	Interior changes to adapt from full bath house to half bath house and half park office. Building suffered damage from multi-inch snowfall in 1964. Rafters lifted with jacks and roof replaced
4. Pool pump house/flowing well cover	Structure	1924-1925	C	Limestone exterior added in early 1960s (original wood building under stone)
5. Casino	Building	1924 - 1925	C	Original porch on south elevation enclosed and entry moved to north elevation during 1960s.
6. Concession Stand	Building	c. late 1920s	C	
7. Cottage: Pecanwood	Building	c. late 1920s	C	
8. Cottage: Peachwood	Building	c. late 1920s to early 1930s	C	Petrified wood
9. Cottage: Sprucedale	Building	c. late 1920s to early 1930s	C	Petrified wood front (south elevation), limestone added over clapboard on sides, 1960s
10. Two-story Cottage: Old Corral	Building	c. late 1920s to early 1930s	C	Petrified wood
11. Cottage: Camper	Building	c. late 1920s to early 1930s	C	Limestone, window enclosed with vertical wood
12. Cottage: Plumdale	Building	c. late 1920s to early 1930s	C	Petrified wood; vertical wood filled in window openings in sides, 1960s

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Resource	Type	Date of Construction	Status	Notes
13. Cottage: Honeywood	Building	c. late 1920s to early 1930s	C	Rock and petrified wood
14. Cottage: Ferndale	Building	c. late 1920s to early 1930s	C	Rock and petrified wood; City of Glen Rose replaced front windows in 2010
15. Cottage: Elmdale	Building	c. late 1920s to early 1930s	C	Rock, fossils and petrified wood; window openings on sides enclosed with vertical wood during 1960s; city replaced windows in 2010
16. Cottage: Rockdale	Building	c. late 1920s to early 1930s	C	Rock and petrified wood
17. Cottage: unnamed	Building	c. late 1920s to early 1930s	C	Petrified wood; open to elements, in need of restoration
18. Cottage: Pinedale	Building	c. late 1920s to 1930s	C	Frame cottage covered with limestone during 1960s (original clapboard under limestone)
19. Cottage: Rosedale	Building	c. late 1920s to 1930s	C	Frame cottage covered with limestone in 1960s (original clapboard under limestone)
20. Cottage: Caboose	Building	Originally two Oakdale Park cottages built c. late 1920s to 1930s and a shelter from Lake View Park moved to Oakdale in 1960s	NC	Large frame cottage made of two cottages moved to this location from elsewhere in park, and rock and petrified wood added to bottom of front section and skirting, 1960s
21. Cottage: Hangout	Building	1960s	NC	Built on location of old tabernacle.
22. Cottage: Lily	Building	c. late 1920s to 1930s	C	Two cottages joined together before 1963; rock exterior added 1963 to 1964
23. Cottage: Palmdale	Building	c. late 1920s to 1930s	C	Two cottages joined together before 1963, Mays covered in limestone mid-1960s (original clapboard under rock)
24. Cottage: Bunkhouse	Building	c. late 1920s to 1930s	C	Adapted for use as an art colony in mid-1960s, when rock was added to bottom third of exterior. Limestone ell addition added to north side and rear (west elevation), 1974

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Resource	Type	Date of Construction	Status	Notes
25. Cottage: Cave	Building	c. 1925	C	Frame, originally clapboard walls 1/3 height, then screens, with roll-up canvas flaps; moved from site within east side of park and enclosed 1963-1964
26. Cottage: Pad	Building	c. 1925	C	Frame, originally clapboard walls 1/3 height, then screens, with roll-up canvas flaps; moved from site within east side of park and enclosed 1963-1964
27. Cottage: Den	Building	c. 1925	C	Frame, originally clapboard walls 1/3 height, then screens, with roll-up canvas flaps; moved from site within east side of park and enclosed 1963-1964
28. Cottage: Hut	Building	c. 1925	C	Frame, originally clapboard walls 1/3 height, then screens, with roll-up canvas flaps; moved from site within east side of park and enclosed 1963-1964
29. Cottage: Nest	Building	c. 1925	C	Frame, originally clapboard walls 1/3 height, then screens, with roll-up canvas flaps; moved from site within east side of park and enclosed 1963-1964
30. Cottage: Shack	Building	c. 1925	C	Frame, originally clapboard walls 1/3 height, then screens, with roll-up canvas flaps; moved from site within east side of park and enclosed 1963-1964
31. Cottage: Shanty	Building	c. 1925	C	Frame, originally clapboard walls 1/3 height, then screens, with roll-up canvas flaps; moved from site within east side of park and enclosed 1963-1964
32. Cottage: Toad	Building	c. 1940s	NC	Frame cottage with glass block windows, Mays removed glass block windows, added limestone exterior in 1970s
33. Metal shelter	Building	1960s-1970s	NC	
34. Metal/wood barn	Building	1960s-1970s	NC	
35. Pavilion	Building	1980s	NC	
36. Outdoor Kitchen	Building	c. 1920s	NC	Moved from Lakeview Park to Oakdale Park in 1970s to save from demolition
37. Shelter	Building	c. 1920s	NC	Moved from Lakeview Park to Oakdale Park in 1970s to save from demolition
38. Bathhouse	Building	c. 1920s	NC	Moved from Lakeview Park to Oakdale Park in 1970s to save from demolition

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Resource	Type	Date of Construction	Status	Notes
39. Pickin' Shed	Building	c. 1920s	NC	Moved from Lakeview Park to Oakdale Park in 1970s to save from demolition
40. Restrooms	Building	1920s to 1930s	C	New decking and roof, 1970s
41. Stage	Structure	1970s	NC	
42. Karver's Korner	Building	1970s	NC	
43. Entrance	Object	c. 1970s	NC	Original entrance removed in 1970s when RVs became too large to fit through it. Replaced by existing limestone walls that flank entry

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: Entertainment/Recreation; Architecture

Period of Significance: 1924-1967

Significant Dates: 1924, 1940, 1963, 1967

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

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

Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-22 through 8-35)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 9-36 through 9-38)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

With its 23 original cottages and a 1925 spring-fed swimming pool, Oakdale Park is the last remaining 20th-century tourist camp nestled along the Paluxy River in Glen Rose, Texas, a mineral water destination where tourists traveled "for health and pleasure."¹⁶ As a historic district, Oakdale Park meets Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation as an outstanding remaining example of an intact auto tourism cottage camp that flourished throughout the 20th century. The Oakdale Park Historic District also meets Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a vernacular automobile-oriented tourist camp, while its seven petrified wood cottages are locally significant examples of the use of a unique building material that helped shape the identity of Glen Rose, which was once known as "The Petrified City."¹⁷ Oakdale Park reflects the continuum of history for recreational camping from auto camps through cottage camps to travel trailer parks. Oakdale Park's owners exhibited remarkable adaptability to technology with the development of its first travel trailer sites in 1967. The property is exceptionally significant for its association with the local tourist trade (historically a major economic driver of Glen Rose), and as a rare example of a once-common local business type, which displays the evolution of tourist facilities in the mid-20th century. This adaptability allowed the park to survive and flourish, while nine other early 20th century auto tourism camps in Glen Rose did not. This adaptive use of the 1920s auto camp for travel trailer camping in the 1960s reveals the national trends of recreational camping. Because the majority of the properties in the district are over fifty years old, and the district exhibits a continuity of development and reflects contemporary recreational trends from 1925 through 1967, the district does not have to meet Criteria Consideration G (*properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years*).¹⁸

Glen Rose, Texas

Oakdale Park Historic District tells an important story in the history of Glen Rose, the Somervell County seat. Located where the Grand Prairie meets the Cross Timbers region of North Central Texas, Glen Rose is known for its "mournful, white-walled mesas" and prehistoric dinosaur tracks embedded in the limestone banks of the Paluxy River.¹⁹ Charles Barnard established Glen Rose as a gristmill site in 1860. He was the first Anglo settler to venture west of the Brazos River, which was the "dead line" separating Anglo settlement from Comanche Indian territory.²⁰

Settlers from the Upland South began surging into North Central Texas following Texas' war for independence from Mexico and annexation into the United States in 1845. These pioneers brought with them a cultural heritage developed in the Appalachians and Ozarks that is reflected in the built environment today, from half-dovetail notched corners in their early log cabins to Tennessee "Shelbyville"-style courthouse squares.²¹

Glen Rose and the Paluxy River valley were originally part of Hood County. After three hotly contested elections resulted in the selection of a county seat far to the north, Glen Rose area residents became frustrated.

¹⁶ Glen Rose Chamber of Commerce, "Glen Rose, Texas, The Famous Health and Pleasure Resort," tourism brochure printed 1925, and "Glen Rose, Texas, 'For Health and Pleasure,' The Home of America's Greatest Mineral Waters," undated tourism brochure, Somervell County Historical Commission Collections.

¹⁷ *The WPA Guide to Texas, the Federal Writers' Project Guide to Texas* (1940; reprint, Austin: Texas Monthly Press, 1986), 539.

¹⁸ NPS, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Bulletin 15), p. 43; see also *Denver Court Historic District* (Galveston, Texas) National Register nomination (2001).

¹⁹ Richard Phelan, *Texas Wild, The Land, Plants and Animals of the Lone Star State* (Excalibur Books, 1976), 136-137.

²⁰ T.T. Ewell, *Hood County History* (1886; reprint, Fort Worth, Texas: Historical Publishers, 1978), 2, 21.

²¹ Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov, *The Upland South* (Santa Fe: Center for American Places, 2003), 24, 68.

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In 1875, the Texas legislature granted their request to create Somervell County, which is now the second smallest county in the state with 188 square miles, and named it for Texas General Alexander Somervell, who fought in the Texas War for Independence from Mexico.²² The current Richardsonian Romanesque courthouse was built in Glen Rose in 1893. Native limestone and frame commercial structures were built along the four sides of the courthouse square. By the end of the 19th century, Glen Rose had several mills, three churches, two weekly newspapers, a school, a cotton gin and the Glen Rose Collegiate Institute.²³

Mineral Water and Dinosaur Tracks Bring Tourism to Glen Rose

Visitors or patients have been attracted to spas, or healing waters—both thermal and mineral—since ancient Greeks and Romans enjoyed hydrotherapy. Taking the waters has ebbed and flowed in popularity as a health and spiritual treatment and social activity throughout history. By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, baths and spas reached a social height in Europe, where royalty and the rich gathered at spots like Baden-Baden and Carlsbad. At the same time in America, the Progressive movement focused on the health and welfare of workers and city dwellers. Prohibition, the Meat Inspection Act, the Pure Food and Drug Act, and similar codes emphasized improved public health.

From the late 1870s to the middle of the 20th century, American resorts and spas attracted thousands of tourists “seeking to drink or bathe themselves in better health.”²⁴ Historian David Lowenthal wrote: “The suspicion still endures that travel for its own sake is an idle pleasure—one really ought to have some serious purpose in mind. What better purpose is there than to restore one’s health, physical or mental?”²⁵ The yearning to connect with nature for rejuvenation and improved health led many Texans to mineral springs and spas. The years from 1900 to 1929 brought the most visitors to Texas spas and resorts. A spa’s natural surroundings were important, especially to those seeking pleasure vacations and connections to nature. Describing the landscape around many Texas mineral springs as romantic and picturesque, spa enthusiasts searched for inspiring scenery with a “spirit of place . . . beauty, hope and allure,” historian Janet Mace Valenza wrote.²⁶ Texas resorts were more informal than national spas, often offering inexpensive baths and campsites to middle-class families. Most Texans preferred taking the waters in a resort that provided a community atmosphere and a simpler “communion with nature.”²⁷

Sublime scenery and artesian wells brought Glen Rose its first successful industry at the end of the 19th century: tourism. In 1882, a local resident discovered the first local flowing mineral water well, which was drilled on Sam Turner’s place. Glen Rose resident Connie Dean wrote, “It was a wonderful sight to them to see water spouting out of the ground up into the air.” That same year, local residents drilled a second flowing well on the lawn surrounding the county courthouse. The night the “flow came in,” residents held a big dance at the

²² “SOMERVELL COUNTY,” *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/SS/hcs12.html>). Published by the Texas State Historical Assoc. Accessed 11 Nov. 2011.

²³ “GLEN ROSE, TX,” *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/GG/hjg3.html>). Published by the Texas State Historical Association. Accessed 11 Nov. 2011.

²⁴ Gene Fowler, *Crazy Water, The Story of Mineral Wells and Other Texas Health Resorts* (Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1991), ix.

²⁵ David Lowenthal, “Tourists and Thermalists,” *The Geographic Review* (January 1962): 124.

²⁶ Janet Mace Valenza, *Taking the Waters in Texas Springs, Spas, and Fountains of Youth* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000), 28, 63.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 148.

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courthouse and gathered around bonfires. "Although the people were proud of the flowing wells they did not know the value of the water as a health restorer," Dean wrote.²⁸

Residents soon learned their mineral water was a valuable resource and by 1895, Glen Rose was attracting patrons searching for healing treatments. Although the town had no railroad, visitors arrived by the Glen Rose and Cleburne Hack, which made daily trips to the nearby city with railroad service. Local farmers brought their crops to Barnard's Mill and their families would overnight in their covered wagons at Nanny's Park, a scenic area along the Paluxy River just south of the mill that boasted two flowing mineral wells.

In 1900, the U.S. Geological Survey declared the water in Glen Rose as "valuable" for "medicinal purposes."²⁹ It was said to be a perfect blending of "white sulphur, black sulphur, magnesia, iron and chalybeate; it has neither soda, salt, nor silica."³⁰ The U.S. Geological Survey pronounced the Glen Rose mineral water "more nearly identical with the analysis of the waters of Carlsbad, Germany, than any other water found in the United States."³¹ The *Texas Almanac* of 1914 included this favorable information on Glen Rose water, adding that geologists pronounced Somervell County as "the best watered county in Texas" with "over 300 artesian wells."³² Soon, more parks and camps began to open in Glen Rose, catering to visitors who sought "a nature cure." Murphy Springs charged ten cents a day or fifty cents a week for camping with a wagon and team.³³ In 1909, an exciting geological discovery in Glen Rose heightened the city's tourism appeal. While out hunting along Wheeler Branch, young George Adams discovered "monstrous tracks" in the creek's banks. R.E. McDonald, principal of Glen Rose High School, identified the giant "bird tracks" as dinosaur prints, causing excitement among local residents, who began to find more of the three-toed tracks along the Paluxy River's limestone bed. In 1917, Ellis W. Shuler, professor of geology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, examined the mysterious tracks that were exposed in the flat bottom of a ravine near Glen Rose. He identified them as dinosaur tracks and wrote about his findings in the *American Journal of Science*.³⁴ By 1921, the *Dallas Morning News* magazine section was promoting Glen Rose as both the prehistoric home of dinosaurs and giant lizards and the modern "Mecca of Motorists" within the same headline.³⁵

Wagon Camping at Martin Park, Predecessor to Oakdale Park

In 1901, E.H. Martin purchased a nine-acre tract of land along the Paluxy River in Glen Rose and he and his son, H.M. "Sam" Martin, opened Martin Park.³⁶ The Martins constructed a tabernacle near one of the park's two flowing wells, and opened it as a campground. Church debates in the tabernacle at Martin Park featured preachers from different religious denominations. Visitors gathered in horse-drawn wagons, pitched tents, and

²⁸ Somervell County Scrapbook, Scrapbook Collection, Barker Texas History Collection, Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin.

²⁹ Gene Fowler and the Somervell County Historical Commission, *Images of America, Glen Rose, Texas* (Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2002), 40.

³⁰ Somervell County Scrapbook Collection.

³¹ Fowler and Somervell County Historical Commission, *Images of America, Glen Rose, Texas*, 40

³² *The Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide, 1914* (Galveston and Dallas: *The Galveston-Dallas News*, 1914), 332.

³³ W.C. Nunn, *Somervell, Story of a Texas County* (Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1975), 107.

³⁴ Ellis W. Shuler, "Dinosaur Tracks in the Glen Rose Limestone near Glen Rose, Texas," *American Journal of Science* 44, 194 (1917): 294-298.

³⁵ "Dinosaur, Giant Lizards, Roamed Texas Years Ago—Glen Rose, Mecca of Motorists, Offers Ideal Camping Places for the Thousands Who Seek Sulphur Waters of the District." *Dallas Morning News Magazine Section*, September 11, 1921.

³⁶ Somervell County Deed Records, Book J, 286.

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camped near the well. When camping for extended periods, they brought a chicken and a milk cow along, and cooled their milk and butter in the well's waters.³⁷

Mrs. Bell remembers going to events at Martin Park as a young girl. "There was lots of water there, flowing wells," she said. "There was a tabernacle on the west side of the park, not too far from the street and I remember Mother and Daddy dancing there while string bands with guitars and fiddles played. People gathered there for reunions and get-togethers, where they played dominoes. They mostly rode horses or hacks there, and there were a few cars, but not too many."³⁸ Martin Park was the predecessor to Oakdale Park, and this is where Oakdale Park Historic District's camping heritage began. Martin Park was located in the western one-third of today's Oakdale Park. Unfortunately, none of the resources once located in Martin Park remain. Its flowing wells are dry, and its tabernacles and other buildings, structures, and objects are gone.

Automobiles and Good Roads Transform Recreation

Wagon camping evolved to auto touring in the early 20th century, gradually at first, and then with sudden breathtaking speed. Availability of automobiles and the freedom to travel they offered transformed recreation across the country and in Texas. The automobile blazed a trail into the rapidly changing twentieth century and its new consumer culture. In 1910, Henry Ford moved into a new factory, which was designed to mass-produce the same automobile on an assembly line. Suddenly, middle-class families could buy cars. With mass production, the price of Ford's Model T dropped from \$850 in 1908 to \$260 in 1926.³⁹ The number of cars produced annually rose from 1.5 million in 1919 to 4.8 million in 1929. Ford introduced the new Model A in 1927, and by 1928, his factory was turning out 6,400 of them each day. By the end of the twenties, more than 20 percent of Americans owned a car.⁴⁰

Because of Texas' wide-open spaces and considerable distances to travel from cities to towns, autos quickly became immensely popular. "Just as every poor farmer had owned a horse, every poor tenant living in a tarpaper shack in Texas owned some kind of car," T.R. Fehrenbach wrote. "The auto expanded Texas horizons."⁴¹ In 1910, there were 14,286 vehicles registered in the state of Texas, and within seven years, that number grew to more than 200,000.⁴² By 1929, there was one auto for every 4.3 Texans;⁴³ the state registered approximately 1.45 million cars in 1930.⁴⁴ As the number of cars in the country increased, the need for good roads became a common cause. In Texas, a state where population centers were so far apart, good roads became a necessity. The Texas Good Roads Association was first formed in 1903, and began lobbying for state support of road construction and maintenance. In 1917, with the support of the good roads association, the state created the Texas Highway Department. And in 1923, Texas assessed its first gasoline tax of a penny a gallon, with three-

³⁷ Nunn, *Somervell, Story of a Texas County*, 111, and Dorothy Leach, "A Look Back at Oakdale Park," *Glen Rose Reporter*, July 23, 2009 and interview with Mr. and Mrs. May by author.

³⁸ Interview with Mary Elizabeth Buzan Bell by author.

³⁹ Leland Roth, *A Concise History of American Architecture* (New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1979), 231.

⁴⁰ Lynn Dumenil, *Modern Temper, American Culture and Society in the 1920s* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1995), 58, 77.

⁴¹ T.R. Fehrenbach, *Lone Star, A History of Texas and the Texans* (New York: American Legacy Press, 1968), 649.

⁴² Hilton Hagan, *An Informal History of the Texas Department of Transportation* (Texas Department of Transportation, 1991), 3.

⁴³ Norman D. Brown, "TEXAS IN THE 1920S," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/npt01>). Published by the Texas State Historical Association. Accessed 11 November 2011.

⁴⁴ Hagan, *An Informal History of the Texas Department of Transportation*, 15.

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fourths of the proceeds going toward highway construction and maintenance. By 1930, the state highway system contained 18,928 miles.⁴⁵

No longer subject to the restrictions of train or trolley schedules, Americans traveled at their leisure. During the 1920s, recreational spending increased in the United States by 300 percent. With more time off work and paid vacations, Americans responded to advertising by car manufacturers with a marked increase of interest in travel. "You find a *Road of Happiness* the day you buy a Buick," promised a magazine ad.⁴⁶ As Americans hit the newly constructed highways, tourist camping became a new phenomenon of the times. An advertisement for tents claimed "auto camping is the fastest-growing sport in the world, because it is based on freedom, economy and common sense."⁴⁷ Cities across the country began building camps to accommodate auto tourists. The American Tourist Camp Association was formed in New York in 1925 to help camps inform travelers about their amenities, and the California Camp Owners Association promoted "safe, sanitary, supervised Tourist Auto Camps."⁴⁸

Tent camping was soon replaced by roughing it in cottages or cabins, which were built at tourist camps, in the woods, or alongside lakeshores, and often used for weekend retreats. First, tents were erected on platforms, and then small cabins were built. The first cabin camp was built in Douglas, Arizona, in 1913. Usually shacks or cabins were built in a row along a roadway and spaced to allow room for a car between each cabin. Cabins eventually became "cottages," when they were upgraded with private toilets, running water, and electricity. Cabin and cottage camps of the 1920s and 1930s appealed to both auto campers and motorists who preferred to stay in hotels. They recalled the picturesque charm of late-19th century summer cottages, bringing travelers close to nature while still providing amenities like private toilets and running water. In 1901, *Ladies Home Journal* promoted cottage getaways for families: "a cottage stay promised tired mothers fresh air . . . and restful naps amid the sweet scent of clover."⁴⁹

Like their fellow Americans across the rest of the country, Texans hit newly built roads in their cars to see the sights and escape to nature. Auto camps became popular. In 1926, *American Motorist* wrote that the Midwest and West had the best camps, and included Texas among "a few outstanding regions where the motor vacationist is recognized as a distinct asset to the community and treated accordingly."⁵⁰ By 1924, there were 174 auto camps in Texas.⁵¹ Although Glen Rose never attracted railroad service, the scenic resort community seventy-five miles south of Dallas was fortunate to be located along the Meridian Highway. Planned and promoted by the Meridian Highway Association, this major north-south transcontinental highway was described as "one of the great nationally planned highways from Winnipeg, Canada to the City of Mexico, nine hundred miles through Texas, every mile of which is plainly marked."⁵² In 1914, *The Texas Almanac* noted "A motor highway is now under construction from Glen Rose to Dallas." By the 1920s, the almanac described Glen Rose

⁴⁵ Ibid., 4, 6.

⁴⁶ Dumenil, *Modern Temper, American Culture and Society in the 1920s*, 89.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ American Tourist Camp Association letterhead stationery, W.E. Dakan, Texas state representative, to David E. Colp, 5 Aug. 1926, and "Tourist Road Map of California," published by the California Camp Owners Association, July 1926, Colp Papers.

⁴⁹ John Jakle, *The Tourist, Travel in Twentieth-Century North America* (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1985), 63, 164-165.

⁵⁰ Frank E. Brimmer, "Up-To-The-Minute Motor Camps," *American Motorist, Official Publication of the American Automobile Association* XVIII, No. 3 (March 1926): 17.

⁵¹ Jones, "A Place Like Home: The Rise and Fall of the Tourist Camp in Texas," 3.

⁵² "The Switzerland of America," Bosque County's State Park Site, proposal submitted to David E. Colp, circa 1927, David E. Colp papers, 1917-1936, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

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as having "good highway connections."⁵³ A *United States Touring Map*, published in 1925 by the Automobile Club of America and National Highways Association in Washington, D.C., shows Glen Rose on the Meridian Highway, one of "28 North-South Transcontinental Highways."⁵⁴

In Glen Rose, auto travel and highway access brought booming tourism and created the base of the small town's economy. As early as 1918, an article in the *Christian Courier* described the summer season in Glen Rose:

But the great value and drawing card of Glen Rose is its mineral waters. The whole country about not only abounds in the beauties of nature, rugged cliffs, boulders, overhanging rocks, hills and woodland parks, and picturesque scenes, but gushing springs and fountains. Hundreds and thousands of people come every season to drink this water and to rest and recreate. Hundreds of automobiles will come in from Cleburne, Fort Worth, Dallas and other towns and cities, tents are stretched everywhere in the parks, boarding places are crowded—hundreds to whom this proves a boon and a cure to the 'ills that flesh is heir to.'⁵⁵

Auto Touring and an Improved Highway Pave the Way for Oakdale Park

In 1919 and again in 1921, the *Dallas Morning News* printed articles promoting Glen Rose as a tourism destination. Along with picturesque scenery, camping, boating, fishing, and bathing in mineral waters, the articles described "fair-weather roads" that were not surfaced between Dallas and Glen Rose. In spite of the fact that the Meridian Highway was not paved, proud new auto owners motored to Glen Rose in numbers the small resort town had never seen before. "Somervell County's best crop is the summer campers, and the 1921 crop has broken all records," wrote a reporter for the *Dallas Morning News*, who attributed the boon to automobiles. "The manner of traveling is different, too, according to a survey of the camping district, and it is the bona fide motorist, his family and an occasional friend who are making the pilgrimage to the sulphur (sic) water shade district."⁵⁶

Sometime before 1920, passenger trucks replaced the horse-drawn hacks that brought travelers to Glen Rose from the train station in nearby Cleburne, the seat of Johnson County. In 1920, one Cleburne truck driver estimated that he brought 900 visitors to Glen Rose during the entire summer season. One year later, in 1921, he transported just 400 visitors from Cleburne to Glen Rose because so many more travelers drove to the resort town in their own cars.⁵⁷ Automobiles were quickly replacing trains as the preferred mode of transportation by vacationers in Texas.

Inundated with enthusiastic new auto tourists, the three parks in Glen Rose that offered overnight stays in 100 camp cottages turned away an average of 75 automobiles each day from July 1 until early September of 1921. Owners of the parks estimated that 40,000 people enjoyed auto camping in Glen Rose that summer, either in

⁵³ *The Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide*, 1914, 1926, 1929.

⁵⁴ "United States Touring Map," issued by The Automobile Club of America and National Highways Association, Washington, D.C., 1925, Colp papers.

⁵⁵ Valenza, *Taking the Waters in Texas, Springs, Spas and Fountains of Youth*, 195.

⁵⁶ "Dinosaur, Giant Lizards, Roamed Texas Years Ago—Glen Rose, Mecca of Motorists, Offers Ideal Camping Places for the Thousands Who Seek Sulphur Waters of the District." *Dallas Morning News Magazine Section*, September 11, 1921, and "Glen Rose Active Competitor," *Dallas Morning News*, July 10, 1919.

⁵⁷ "Glen Rose, Mecca of Motorists, Offers Ideal Camping Places for the Thousands Who Seek Sulphur Waters of the District." *Dallas Morning News Magazine Section*, September 11, 1921.

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parks and cottages, or somewhere along the Paluxy River for four or five miles on either side of Glen Rose. Many families who rented cottages stayed for two weeks or longer at the scenic health resort destination.⁵⁸

Farsighted community leaders in Glen Rose, who saw the economic potential of catering to middle-class auto tourists, petitioned Somervell County Commissioners, calling for a road bond election to fund a macadam road from the Johnson County line to the Brazos River. County voters approved the bond, and with additional money from the state and federal government, the Texas Highway Department worked from 1922 to 1925 to build Highway No. 68 from east to west through Somervell County. The project included the construction of four steel and concrete bridges, which cost a total of \$45,000. Leaving Somervell County and driving southwest on Highway 68, a motorist could connect to Highway 10 in Dublin and then to State Highway 1 in Eastland and reach the Pacific Ocean from Glen Rose.⁵⁹ In 1925, the *Texas Highway Bulletin* praised the vision of Somervell County voters:

For a half a century this little county with its eighty miles of river front, its springs and flowing well of mineral waters, its wealth of natural scenery, has waited in the silent reserve of isolation for the coming of the highway, to be connected with the great centers of commerce and industry, with the great world at large of which it is a part.

Today, Somervell county and her county seat, Glen Rose, is on the great highway course. She has taken her place in the life and activities of the land. Thousands of visitors throng the little city of Glen Rose on the Paluxy, to drink of the health giving waters and enjoy the pleasure of a sojourn in her wonderful parks.

Today, the citizenship of this county are reaping the reward, and a most generous reward it is. This summer will mean for Glen Rose a record one. The little city of the picturesque little county, will entertain thousands of visitors and tourists.

Does highway building pay? For answer go over to Somervell county.⁶⁰

In an effort to accommodate the increasing number of auto tourists arriving in Glen Rose along newly paved Highway No. 68, businessmen opened seven new auto tourist parks in the small resort town between 1921 and 1925. Among them was Oakdale Park, which opened on May 1, 1925. Oakdale Park's developer, Henry J. Cox, was the Texas highway maintenance engineer who supervised the state highway-building project in Somervell County. During the three years he lived in Glen Rose overseeing highway construction. Mr. Cox saw the potential for economic prosperity that improved highway access would bring to the small resort town, and he enjoyed the more peaceful and tranquil quality of life he experienced there. So, in July 1924, Mr. Cox purchased a parcel of land from H.M. "Sam" Martin, which he planned to develop as an auto tourism park he would call Oakdale.⁶¹

Between July 1924 and Oakdale Park's opening in May 1925, Mr. Cox built Oakdale Plunge, the park's pool, which he dug out with a team of mules and filled with 310,000 gallons of mineral water from the park's flowing

⁵⁸ "Glen Rose, Mecca of Motorists, Offers Ideal Camping Places for the Thousands Who Seek Sulphur Waters of the District." *Dallas Morning News Magazine Section*, September 11, 1921,

⁵⁹ "Somervell County Offers Interesting Chapter in Story of Highway Building," *Texas Highway Bulletin* Volume No. 5, No. 6 (June 1925): 12.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 12-13.

⁶¹ Somervell County Deed Records, Book R, 549.

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well. In the development of Oakdale Park, Mr. Cox incorporated "his ideals, and these are a charming combination of the modern and the simple." By Oakdale's opening day on May 1, 1925, Mr. Cox also built cottages equipped with "every modern convenience," and a "dancing pavilion and a delightful place to eat a chicken dinner."⁶² Mr. Cox also built the bathhouse and casino building at the front of the park that year.

Once Oakdale Park opened to the public, Mr. Cox charged 25 cents a day for admission to Oakdale Plunge. Bathers could rent a wool bathing suit for 15 cents, along with a towel for another 10 cents. The first year, there was no fence around the pool, but bathers snuck in at night, so Mr. Cox built the tall, chain link fence that is still around the pool today. At one time, movies were shown on a large screen placed on the bathhouse roof.⁶³ In May 1925, Mr. Cox ran a classified ad in the *Dallas Morning News* soliciting concession operators at Oakdale Park, which he described as a "Glen Rose Amusement Park."⁶⁴

To beckon motorists driving by Oakdale on Highway No. 68, Mr. Cox constructed a wooden gazebo just west of Oakdale Park's entrance. He ran a pipe under the road from the flowing well southwest of the swimming pool so visitors could drink mineral water from a water fountain in the gazebo. He added a sign at the top of gazebo that read, "Let Me Place a Well of Healing Waters by the Side of the Road and Thus be a Friend to Man."⁶⁵

With a newly paved highway traversing Somervell County, and 10 auto tourism parks, the Glen Rose Chamber of Commerce created a brochure that promoted their town as "The Famous Health and Pleasure Resort." The new marketing piece appealed to auto travelers, even those who lived more than 100 miles away, and promoted travel along State Highway 68 from Dallas via Cleburne: "This is the day of autos. Ninety percent of the recreations or summer vacations are now taken by auto. It does not matter whether you are within 25 or 200 miles of Glen Rose, a few hours drive will land you in Glen Rose." The chamber brochure also touted Glen Rose's new auto tourism parks to campers: "Accommodations are offered to those who desire to camp, in the way of Camp Cottages in the various parks, furnished with benches, Tables, Cook Stoves and wood, you need only to bring some bedding and a few simple cooking utensils and you are equipped for a rousing good time, for weeks, or, even months."⁶⁶

By July 1925, Mr. Cox platted the park into symmetrical lots, developing Oakdale Park Addition. Many individuals who purchased lots in Oakdale built their own cottages, but their deeds of sale made it clear that they were subject to certain covenants and restrictions as part of Oakdale Park. Improvements were limited to one dwelling per lot, together with necessary out buildings, and no livestock was permitted on lots. Toilets and other plumbing fixtures were required to be connected with Oakdale's sanitary sewer system and water system, with Mr. Cox paying for and providing the necessary piping and line connections.⁶⁷

Along with Oakdale Park, Glen Rose's auto tourist parks, sanitariums, and hotels reaped the benefits of lower-priced cars and new roads. On July 9, 1926, the *Glen Rose Reporter* revealed that 30,000 people visited the resort town during the Independence Day weekend that year, which was the largest crowd of tourists in the history of the city. "By Friday night practically every park in the town was filled, and camping space under shade trees was at a premium," wrote a reporter for the paper. "The parks report a

⁶² *Texas Highway Bulletin* (June 1925): 13.

⁶³ Geneva May, "HISTORY OF OAKDALE PARK," *Oakdale Park* (<http://oakdalepark.com/history.htm>), accessed April 1, 2009.

⁶⁴ "Privileges for Sale—Concessions," *Dallas Morning News*, May 31, 1925, 4.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, 40 – 42.

⁶⁶ Glen Rose Chamber of Commerce, "Glen Rose Texas, The Famous Health and Pleasure Resort," 1925.

⁶⁷ Somervell County Deed Records, Book Z, page 556.

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good business, the swimming pools were filled with laughing, merry making men, women, boys and girls. The dance hall and skating rinks were well patronized.”⁶⁸

In 1927, Mr. Cox enlarged Oakdale Park when he purchased two additional parcels of land from H.M. Martin—a ten-acre parcel to the west of Oakdale Park, and the original driveway or entranceway to Martin Park from Highway No. 68.⁶⁹ This expanded the boundaries of Oakdale Park to include Martin Park, which a writer described as “depending more on nature for its equipment” with shady spots under large trees and few improvements.⁷⁰ Today, Oakdale Park’s boundaries include both this 1927 purchase of Martin Park and the original 1925 Oakdale Park, with the exception of the plot of land where Mr. Cox built his own house.

Elna Martin, a Glen Rose resident, wrote a book in 1927 that described all of Glen Rose’s tourist parks and sanitariums. In her description of Oakdale Park, she wrote of cottages with baths, iceboxes, and electric lights. She described the “modern concrete bottom swimming pool,” dressing rooms, dancing pavilion, and “melodious medleys of radio music” coming from the music shelter east of the pool. “Electric lights around the pool in the evenings gives the affect of a party in session as the gay laughter of the happy bathers fills the air,” Ms. Martin wrote. “Mingled with this laughter is the soft soothing strains of orchestra music as it floats out into the air.”⁷¹

Building with Petrified Wood Creates a “Paradise of Geology” and a “Petrified City”

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, destinations hoping to attract travelers often expressed regional influences in their architecture to create unique cultural identities. The quintessential example of this is Santa Fe, where Pueblo Revival buildings were encouraged in the city’s 1912 plan. “Architectural image became central to stimulating tourism,” Chris Wilson wrote. “Soon the chamber of commerce was promoting Santa Fe not as another ‘City Beautiful,’ but as the ‘City Different.’”⁷² This trend increased with roadside architecture of the 20th century, where entrepreneurs created exuberant expressions with materials, signs, and styles to attract motorists.

In 1927, residents of Glen Rose began constructing buildings using huge pieces of petrified wood unearthed by mechanical tractors. Leslie Hart and his sons found fossilized trees so large that their tractor spun around when it struck them. Digging up the heavy trees was backbreaking work, but farmers were determined to plant their cotton. By 1929, in an article subtitled “Texas Forest of Glittering Stone and a Texas Town Show the World Something New About Architecture,” William Cochran with the *Dallas Morning News* reported that building out of petrified wood was “sweeping over Glen Rose like the bobbed hair and short skirt fad.”⁷³

Influenced by Romantic traditions of “genius loci” or the “peculiar character of a place,” Arts and Crafts naturalism, and the development of National Park rustic architecture throughout the country, leaders in Glen Rose began building bungalows, Tudor Revival-style houses, and even a bandstand and fountain on the courthouse lawn of petrified wood.⁷⁴ William Cochran called it “distinctively Glen Rosian,” and wrote, “This

⁶⁸ “Largest Crowd in History of City Here Last Weekend; Estimated,” *Glen Rose Reporter*, July 9, 1926.

⁶⁹ Somervell County Deed Records, Book 28, pages 7 and 13.

⁷⁰ Elna Martin, *Glen Rose and Geo. P. Snyder, A Texas Town, The American Coue* (Dallas: Bradford Printing, Co., Inc., 1927), 42.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Chris Wilson, *The Myth of Santa Fe, Creating a Modern Regional Tradition* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997), 122.

⁷³ William Cochran, “Glen Rose Has Homes of Petrified Wood—Texas Forest of Glittering Stone and a Texas Town Show the World Something New About Architecture,” *Dallas Morning News*, June 30, 1929, Feature Section, 8.

⁷⁴ Dell Upton, *Architecture in the United States* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), 113.

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City by the Paluxy is Fast Becoming Unique Among American Communities Through the Use in Construction of Mica-Sprinkled Logs of Rock Which Nature Has Provided.”⁷⁵

The interest in dinosaur exploration and research in North America and the Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925 brought paleontology, evolution, and prehistory into the homes of most Americans in their morning papers.⁷⁶ These current events crossed over to popular culture, where movies like *The Lost World*, released in 1925, portrayed the first realistic depictions of dinosaurs in small town theaters across the country. Tapping into this enthusiasm for prehistory, Glen Rose leaders began promoting their town’s mineral water, dinosaur tracks, and petrified wood as a “Paradise of Geology,” creating a unique regional, cultural, and architectural identity.⁷⁷ William Cochran wrote that businesses in Glen Rose were building of petrified wood “to move the near-by petrified forests into town and save tourists the tramp out in the sticks where the sticks are stones.” In so doing, Glen Rose residents created “the most unique and altogether remarkable style of architecture and mural construction ever produced.”⁷⁸ At one point, citizens of Glen Rose considered changing the town’s name to “Petrified City.”⁷⁹

Oakdale Park joined in on this unique local architectural expression by 1929, when O.C. Poole, a newspaper publisher in Cleburne, built a petrified wood bungalow at the park, and Mr. Cox advertised for petrified wood and other unique building materials on the front page of the Glen Rose newspaper. Rustic cottages built of natural, local material would appeal to those seeking a relaxing, therapeutic, back-to-nature getaway in Glen Rose. At one point during Mr. Cox’s ownership of Oakdale, the park contained as many as 42 cottages.

Today, Oakdale Park has nine cottages remaining that are built with petrified wood and fossils on their exteriors: Peachwood, Sprucedale, Old Corral, Plumdale, Honeywood, Ferndale, Elmdale, Rockdale, and an unnamed cottage. These cottages display an unusually folksy artistic quality with their imaginative and whimsical use of indigenous materials. The picturesque, rustic appearance of these petrified wood cottages represents a remarkable kind of “genius loci,” because they reflect their location’s character and harmonize with their site. The area’s unique geology and natural history provided the ultimate in decorative materials. The petrified wood cottages in Oakdale Park feature irregular-sized stones laid in a random or mosaic pattern. The irregularity of the stone and its earthy brown and orange colors contrast sharply with the finely cut, native white limestone walls built regionally in the late 19th century. The mosaic pattern allows petrified wood to project unevenly from the exterior wall surfaces, providing eye-catching depth. Petrified wood logs are often laid diagonally like half timbers, contrasting dramatically with surrounding rounder stones, but the logs are also laid vertically and horizontally.

Local stonemasons like Granville Norman used fossils, limestone, sandstone, and granite along with petrified wood in their creative masonry work. They learned to work with petrified wood, which is as hard as quartz, on the job. They created patterns with small pieces of petrified wood imbedded in mortar, as seen in Ferndale’s mortar joints. Peachdale and Honeywood feature large slabs of petrified wood as lintels above their door openings, and other chunks of petrified wood throughout their exterior walls. Sprucewood, which is frame construction with a façade veneered with petrified wood, also features a petrified wood doorway lintel, as well

⁷⁵ Cochran, “Glen Rose Has Homes of Petrified Wood, *Dallas Morning News*, June 30, 1929, Feature Section, 8.

⁷⁶ Edwin H. Colbert, “North American Dinosaur Hunters,” *The Complete Dinosaur* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1997), 26.

⁷⁷ “Famous Resort Visited on Pleasure Tour,” *Dallas Morning News*, June 26, 1938.

⁷⁸ Cochran, “Glen Rose Has Homes of Petrified Wood, *Dallas Morning News*, June 30, 1929, Feature Section, 8.

⁷⁹ Frank X. Tolbert, “Tolbert’s Texas, Emphysema Avenue in Glen Rose Town,” *Dallas Morning News*, August 17, 1969, Section A, 39.

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as contrasting brick trim around its front windows. Other fossils used in construction of Oakdale Park's petrified wood cottages include tufa, a porous limestone, and ammonites, spiral-shaped fossilized shells.

Opening Day for Tourism Season

With its complete package of prehistoric and natural wonders along with a new highway, Glen Rose attracted from 250,000 to 300,000 visitors annually during the late 1920s.⁸⁰ It was during this time period that the town and its attractions and parks began holding an annual "Opening Day" for the tourism season. Typically, Oakdale and the other tourist parks were open for four months each year, from May 1 through Labor Day. On April 21, 1930, Glen Rose kicked off the summer season with a parade featuring 50 floats, speeches, a rodeo, and a high wire act. The festivities concluded with a "Big Opening Dance" at the casino in Oakdale Park featuring music by the Texas Troubadours.⁸¹

During the early 1930s, Oakdale Plunge was one of only five grade-A swimming pools in Texas, and the industry awarded it a Jantzen Swimming Membership.⁸² In 1930, the *Cleburne Morning Review* described Oakdale Park as "a popular place and its cooling shade and crystal water lures thousands of swimmers annually."⁸³ Mrs. Bell remembers one summer when her brother and his friends dressed in "old-time" bathing suits and put on a show for swimmers, jumping and diving from the pool platform. "In the evenings, there were always a lot of people from different places gathered at Oakdale Park. They parked east and west of the pool," Mrs. Bell said. "Lots of kids learned to swim there. I'm not much of a water person, but I was there all the time."⁸⁴

All through the difficult economic times of the 1930s, Glen Rose leaders developed creative events and attractions to bring tourists in during the summer season. By 1930, the resort town featured a nine-hole golf course and an 80-acre flat airfield where visitors could fly into Glen Rose. In 1930, Glen Rose held its second Annual Health and Beauty Week and Bathing Revue. Miss Daisy Lee Davis participated in the revue as Miss Oakdale Park. She later appeared as Miss Glen Rose in the Miss Texas pageant in Fort Worth. Mrs. Bell participated in a bathing beauty contest at Oakdale Park in 1934, where participants paraded around Oakdale Plunge. The directors of the chamber of commerce crowned Mrs. Bell as Miss Glen Rose, and she went on to represent the city at other bathing beauty pageants throughout the state.⁸⁵

In 1937, Mr. Cox was publicity chairman for the Glen Rose Chamber of Commerce. On July 25 that year, he told the *Dallas Morning News* that Glen Rose was expecting its best year since before the beginning of the depression, and business had already shown a marked upturn since the summer of 1936. The paper reported that Glen Rose hoped to soon surpass its record from the late 1920s of 300,000 visitors per season.⁸⁶ In 1938, the *Dallas Morning News* reported that, as owner of Oakdale Park, Mr. Cox made as much money in four months each year as he had previously made as a full-time, year-round highway engineer.⁸⁷

⁸⁰ "Glen Rose Claims Original Tourists of 10,000,000 B.C.—Noted Resort Town Says Even Dinosaurs Chose It as a Vacation Spot," *Dallas Morning News*, July 25, 1937.

⁸¹ "Annual Glen Rose Opening Monday," *Cleburne Morning Review*, April 20, 1930.

⁸² May, "Glen Rose as a Recreation Center."

⁸³ "Annual Glen Rose Opening Monday," *Cleburne Morning Review*, April 20, 1930.

⁸⁴ Interview with Mrs. Bell by author.

⁸⁵ Interview with Mrs. Bell by author.

⁸⁶ "Glen Rose Claims Original Tourists of 10,000,000 B.C.," *Dallas Morning News*, July 25, 1937.

⁸⁷ "Glen Rose Man Eschews Cash for Happiness—Cottages of Petrified Wood," *Dallas Morning News*, April 24, 1938.

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To market Oakdale Park during the 1930s, Mr. Cox printed a flier promoting Glen Rose as a great outdoors getaway, "within easy motoring distance of all north Central Texas." The flier publicized "A Restful Vacation at Low Cost" in Glen Rose, where cottages could be rented for a dollar a day, green fees were 25 cents per round of golf, and horses could be ridden for 50 cents an hour. By then, Glen Rose had nine auto tourist parks "offering living quarters ranging from one and two-room summer cabins with plain, though comfortable furnishings, to four and five-room cottages of natural stone, with all modern conveniences, including bath, hot and cold water, gas, electricity and fans." The flier featured an Oakdale Park logo with a diving female swimmer and the tagline, "Come to Glen Rose for Health and Pleasure."⁸⁸

In 1940, Glen Rose opened its tourism season on May 4 and 5, "with streamers flying and a band playing" as the big parade marched through "this little city on the Paluxy." Jack Amlung and his Crazy Gang, famous Texas radio entertainers, played at the Opening Day dance at Oakdale Park casino that Saturday evening. Opening Day organizers hoped to broadcast the events via radio through a station in nearby Dublin.⁸⁹

When orchestras and big bands like the Crazy Gang weren't performing at the casino in Oakdale Park, people gathered there and listened to music played on a nickelodeon and danced. On June 18, 1939, Mary Elizabeth Buzan married Harry Bell in Glen Rose. After their wedding ceremony, they "went to the casino at Oakdale Park where we gathered with friends and listened to music and danced and had great fun," Mrs. Bell said. She also remembers dancing away an evening at Oakdale Park's casino while Red Henderson and his orchestra played. During the 1940s, the orchestras fell silent and the dancing ended at Oakdale Park's casino. Mr. Cox installed a maple floor in the building and re-opened it as a skating rink, which proved to be popular with visiting and local families and children.⁹⁰

Mrs. Bell's memories include vendors at Oakdale Park, who sold souvenirs and keepsakes from booths set up west of the swimming pool. She also remembers an outdoor bowling lane covered with a canvas awning located in the same area of the park. "After we were married, my best friend and I would go down to Oakdale in the evenings and sit on the benches and wait for our husbands to come home from work," Mrs. Bell said.

In 1940, the Central Texas Methodist Conference bought Lake View Park, which was located just east and south of Oakdale Park, and renamed it Glen Lake Camp. The church began converting the auto tourist camp into a summer camp for children, and built new native limestone buildings. That process continued throughout the 1950s and 1960s, when the old swimming pool at Lake View Park was closed and a new pool built. Today, Glen Lake Camp is still open, but, unlike Oakdale Park, none of its resources from its time as an auto tourist park remain.

Oakdale Park in the Postwar Period

On April 21, 1950, Henry J. Cox died in Glen Rose, where he had enjoyed "a tranquil life in one of the beauty spots on Mother Earth."⁹¹ For two years, his wife, Delia, and son, H.J., Jr., ran the park. In 1952, they sold it to James Thomas. On May 11, 1952, the same year Mr. Thomas bought the park, Upshur Vincent with the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* wrote an article on Glen Rose entitled "Glen Rose, Popular Town of Yore, is Still Worth a

⁸⁸ "Swim ... Ride ... Play Golf ... Enjoy Yourself in the Great Outdoors at Glen Rose, Texas," published by Oakdale Park, undated, Somervell County Historical Commission Records.

⁸⁹ "Glen Rose Summer Season Opens May 4th and 5th," *Glen Rose Reporter*, April 26, 1940, 1.

⁹⁰ Interview with Mrs. Bell by author, and Leach, "A Look Back at Oakdale Park," *Glen Rose Reporter*, July 23, 2009.

⁹¹ Somervell County Historical Commission Cemetery Inventory and "Glen Rose Man Eschews Cash for Happiness," *Dallas Morning News*, April 24, 1938.

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Visit." In his article, Mr. Vincent wrote that workers at the Convair plant in Fort Worth were commuting to Glen Rose and living in some of the old tourist camps, except in Oakdale Park, a large tourist facility, "which just now is undergoing extensive improvements." Among Mr. Thomas' improvements to Oakdale was the addition of a go-cart track behind the casino, which he hoped would appeal to travelers.⁹²

During the years after World War II, a national euphoric economic boom changed the lifestyles of American families. After 15 years of traumatic experiences like depression and war, an optimism and a persistent belief in a bright, shining future prevailed over most of the country. Much like the 1920s, the 1950s were a consumer culture, and a big part of that culture was the American dream of owning an automobile. As prosperity increased, so did auto manufacturing and ownership. By the start of the 1950s, there was one car for every three people in the country. Tourists inundated the highways, and roadside attractions like diners and drive-ins flourished. From 1947 until 1963, General Motors encouraged auto touring, urging citizens to "See the USA in Your Chevrolet."⁹³ In spite of the booming economy and more tourists traveling again by car, James Thomas lost Oakdale Park to foreclosure. On June 4, 1963, authorities auctioned Oakdale Park on the steps of the Somervell County Courthouse. Mrs. Cox and her son were the lien holders on the park, and they were able to buy it back for \$20,000.⁹⁴

During this time, Oakdale Park and Oakdale Plunge never closed. But city leaders, wisely concerned that their town would lose a tourism and community jewel, immediately leased the park from the Cox family. For two weeks, every man in Glen Rose who could spare some time began a big clean-up project at Oakdale Park. "This seemed to really awaken the town people to the fact that one of their parks that they had all been so proud of was suddenly in need of their help if it were to go on," Geneva May wrote.⁹⁵ On June 15, 1963, Alton "Whimp" May and his wife, Geneva "Pete" May, purchased Oakdale Park for \$28,000. Among their first tasks were upgrading the electrical wiring and installing a new plumbing system, changing the park from septic tanks to the city sewer system. Then they set about rehabilitating the buildings at Oakdale Park as described in Section 7. "They breathed new life into the park and made it an attraction better than ever," Dorothy Leach wrote. By the end of the 1960s, the three artesian wells at Oakdale Park had stopped flowing, and all of the others in the county ran dry by the early 1970s. During the depression, World War II, and the drought of the 1950s, many of the other 1920s auto tourist parks in Glen Rose closed their gates. But the booming post-war economy soon found Glen Rose businessmen and political leaders developing a new attraction for the traditional resort town. Plans were underway to open Dinosaur Valley State Park, where visitors could view dinosaur tracks in the Paluxy riverbed, which were first discovered in the area during the early 20th century. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department opened Dinosaur Valley as a state park in 1969, and today Glen Rose is known as "The Dinosaur Capital of Texas."

Oakdale Park Welcomes Travel Trailers

The middle of the 1960s brought an adaptation to Oakdale Park that ensured its future while preserving its past as a 1920s auto tourist park. Oakdale Park opened its first travel trailer sites on the east of the park in 1967. Manufacture of travel trailers actually began during the 1930s as a product for early 20th century auto tourists. However, these early trailers were not affordable to the average American motorist. The golden age of travel

⁹² May, "Glen Rose as a Recreation Center," and Upshur Vincent, "Glen, Rose, Popular Town of Yore, is Still Worth a Visit," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, May 11, 1952.

⁹³ Marguerite S. Shaffer, *See America First, Tourism and National Identity, 1880 - 1940* (Washington and London: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2001), 311 - 313.

⁹⁴ "Miscellaneous Opportunities," *Dallas Morning News*, May 26, 1963, and May, "Glen Rose as a Recreation Center.

⁹⁵ May, "Glen Rose as a Recreation Center."

Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

trailers began after World War II, when manufacturing opened up to leisure, rather than wartime, markets. The burgeoning consumer culture of the fifties, along with improved technology and increased leisure time provided by new appliances, made auto travel even more attractive. And the post-war baby boom provided passengers for new travel trailers.

Mr. May said that he and his wife had no thought of accommodating travel trailers at Oakdale Park until recreational vehicles started arriving there. A camping club, whose members drove pick-ups with campers in the backs of their trucks, showed up at Oakdale during the mid-1960s. Many of them had electricity, but Oakdale had no hook-ups, and some of the campers suggested the Mays add facilities for recreational vehicles at the park. Travel trailers requesting electrical hook-ups soon followed the pick-up truck campers. "We didn't have any idea what they needed, and neither did they," Mr. May said. "We were pioneers of travel trailer parks in the area."⁹⁶ The Mays provided space for the park's first travel trailer sites by moving the small frame cottages located within the east side of Oakdale and placing them in a row along the park's north border. The resulting open area, along the eastern edge of Oakdale, provided space for the first 101 travel trailer hook-ups at Oakdale Park. Mr. May remembered that the trailers coming to Oakdale Park started out small, and then kept getting larger and larger. After they opened Oakdale's trailer sites and hook-ups, travel clubs began making regular summer excursions to the park. "We adapted as we went along," Mr. May remembered. "We didn't have a clue what it would lead up to."⁹⁷

Period of Significance (1925-1967)

Mr. and Mrs. May's ability to adapt to changing auto touring and camping demands in 1967 kept Oakdale Park in business and preserved it for the local community. Oakdale Park is nominated under Criterion A, in the area of Entertainment/Recreation, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture because it tells the story of tourism and auto camping in Glen Rose, from tents and cottages in the 1920s to travel trailer camping in the 1960s. It is the only remaining early 20th-century auto tourism park in Glen Rose, and retains intact examples of petrified wood buildings, a unique and significant local material.

The Oakdale Park Historic District contains 43 primary resources: 1 site, 3 structures, 1 object, and 38 buildings. Of the 38 buildings, 27 (71%) are classified as contributing resources, and all of them were built before 1940. Seven of these buildings (nos. 25-31) are cottages dating to the mid-1920s, which were moved from their original sites to their present locations within the park by 1964. Another six frame buildings (properties 9, 18, 19, 22-24) are in place in their historic locations, but were covered in stone in the mid-1960s. The pump house (contributing structure) was also covered in stone during this period. The period of significance ends in 1967, the year in which recreation vehicle sites were added to the east end of the park, marking the final major change to the park landscape. Because the majority of the properties in the district are over fifty years old, and the district exhibits a continuity of development and reflects contemporary recreational accommodation trends from 1925 through 1967, the district does not have to meet Criteria Consideration G (*properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years*).⁹⁸ The park continues to represent a highly significant aspect of the local economy of the mid-20th century, and is a rare surviving example of its type in Glen Rose. The changes made to the property through 1967 simultaneously reflect changes in popular camping techniques with the advent of recreational vehicles, but also retain the character of the park's earliest cabin and recreational facilities to a high degree.

⁹⁶ Interview with Mays by author.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ NPS, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Bulletin 15), p. 43; see also *Denver Court Historic District* (Galveston, Texas) National Register nomination (2001).

Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

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Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 14.56 acres

Coordinates (either UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates)

UTM References

NAD 1983 X

Zone: 14

1. 617935 E 3567693 N
2. 618220 E 3567868 N
3. 618331 E 3567695 N
4. 618134 E 3567593 N
5. 617991 E 3567581 N

Verbal Boundary Description: (see pages 10-39 and 10-40)

Boundary Justification: Nomination includes all property historically associated with Oakdale Park since 1927, except the original owner's house.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Mary G. Saltarelli, with Gregory Smith, THC National Register Coordinator

Organization: for Glen Rose Historic Preservation Commission

Street & number: 410 Heritage Trail

City or Town: Granbury

State: Texas

Zip Code: 76048

Email: maryestellegott@sbcglobal.net

Telephone: 817-573-2787

Date: April 20, 2012

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets Map-47 through Map-48)

Additional items (see continuation sheets Figure-41 through Figure-46)

Photographs (see continuation sheet Photo-5 through Photo-7)

Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Verbal Boundary Description

Oakdale Park is a 14.56 acre tract of land now surrounded with a chain-link fence, within Blocks 47 and 48 of Milam County School Land Survey, Abstract No. 136, in the City of Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas.

Beginning at a 5/8-inch iron rod set at the intersection of the south line of College Street with the east line of Gaither Street marking the northwest corner of a called 0.49 acre tract of land;

Thence with the south line of College Street and the north line of the said 0.49 acre tract, North 59-17-39 East at 15.04 feet passing a 5/8 inch iron rod with aluminum cap (RPLS 1807) found for reference, continuing for a total distance of 181.75 feet to a 5/8 inch capped iron rod set to replace a 3/4 inch iron pipe found marking the common north corner of said 0.49 acre tract and the called 12.9 acre First Tract;

Thence with the south line of said College Street and the north line of said 12.9 acre tract and also the north line of Blocks 1, 2, and 3 of Oakdale Park Addition to the Town of Glen Rose, North 58-25-15 East for a distance of 1,118.46 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod found at the intersection of the south line of College Street and the west line of McAllister Street marking the northeast corner of said addition and also the northeast corner of the third tract for the northeast corner of the tract described here;

Thence with the easterly line of said addition and said 12.9 acre tract, same being the west line of McAllister Street, South 30-59-East for a distance of 643.91 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod set in the north right of way line of the old US Highway No. 67 (Barnard Street) marking the southeast corner of the tract described here;

Thence with said north right of way line, South 60-35-20 West for a distance of 511.55 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod set at the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 771.88 feet;

Thence with said curve, for an arc distance of 137.11 feet (Long Chord=S 65-17-12 W 136.93 feet) to a 5/8 inch iron rod set marking the southeast corner of a tract conveyed to Mario Luis Cassio Zarate, and marking a southwest corner of the described herein;

Thence departing said right of way line with east line of said Zarate tract and generally along a chain line fence, North 21-44-09 West for a distance of 177.17 feet to a chain link corner post found marking a reentrant of said 12.9 acre tract and the tract described herein, same being the northeast corner of said Zarate tract;

Thence with the common line of said 12.0 acre tract and the aforementioned Zarate tract, South 67-04-37 West for a distance of 161.90 feet to a chain link corner post found marker a corner of said 12.9 acre tract and tract herein described, same being the northwest corner of said Zarate tract and being in the easterly line of a called 0.33 acre conveyed to Zarate;

Thence North 18-24-00 west for a distance of 2.67 feet to a 5/8 inch capped iron rod found (RPLS 1807) marking the northeast corner of said 0.33 acre tract and being a reentrant corner of said 12.9 acre tract and the tract described herein;

Thence with a chain link fence and the north line of said 0.33 acre tract, South 86-27-08 West for a distance of 98.98 feet to a 5/8 inch capped iron rod found (RPLS 1807) marking the northwest corner of said 0.33 tract for a reentrant corner of the tract described herein;

Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Thence with the west line of said 0.33 acre tract and generally with a chain link fence, South 8-33-09 East for a distance of 147.84 feet to an unmarked corner in the north right of way line of Barnard Street from which a 5/8 inch capped iron rod found (RPLS 1807) bears South 8-33-09 East for a distance of 0.46 feet;

Thence with the north right of way line of Barnard Street, South 86-29-55 West for a distance of 306.23 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod set at the beginning of a curve to the left;

Thence with said curve to the left for an arc distance of 119.75 feet (Long Chord= S 81-33-27 W 119.61 feet) to a 5/8 inch iron rod set in the easterly right of way line of Gaither Street marking the southwest of the tract described herein;

Thence with the west line of Gaither, North 30-00-00 West for a distance of 7.08 feet to a 1/2 inch iron pipe marking the west corner of a called Second Tract;

Thence with the south line of a tract conveyed to Oannie D. Aikman, North 64-13-15 East for a distance of 122.86 feet to a 5/8 inch capped iron rod (RPLS 1807) found marking the common south corner of said Aikman tract and a tract conveyed to Sandra Tipton Leutwyler;

Thence with the south line of said Leutwyler tract, North 64-02-08 East for a distance of 59.83 feet to a 3/4 inch pipe found under a chain link fence at the northeast corner of said Second Tract and also marking the southeast corner of said Leutwyler tract, same being a reentrant corner of the tract described herein;

Thence with the east line of said Leutwyler tract and the aforementioned boundary line agreement, North 26-28-11 West for a distance of 132.80 feet to a 2-inch iron pipe with a brass cap found marking the northeast corner of said Leutwyler tract for a reentrant corner of the tract described herein;

Thence with the north line of said Leutwyler tract, South 62-53-35 West for a distance of 8.82 feet to a chain link corner post found marking the southeast corner of a tract conveyed to Timothy Eugene Stewart;

Thence with the east line of said Stewart tract and the west line of said 12.9 acre tract and generally with a fence, North 30-12-25 West for a distance of 60.31 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod with aluminum cap (RPLS 1807) found marking the northeast corner of said Stewart tract and the southeast corner of the aforementioned 0.49 tract for a reentrant corner of the tract described herein;

Thence with the north line of said Stewart tract and the south line of said 0.49 acre tract, South 60-42-21 West for a distance of 174.18 feet to a 5/8 inch iron rod with an aluminum cap (RPLS 1807) found in the east line of Gaither Street marking the northwest corner of said Stewart tract, the southwest corner of said 0.49 acre tract and also being an exterior corner of the tract described herein;

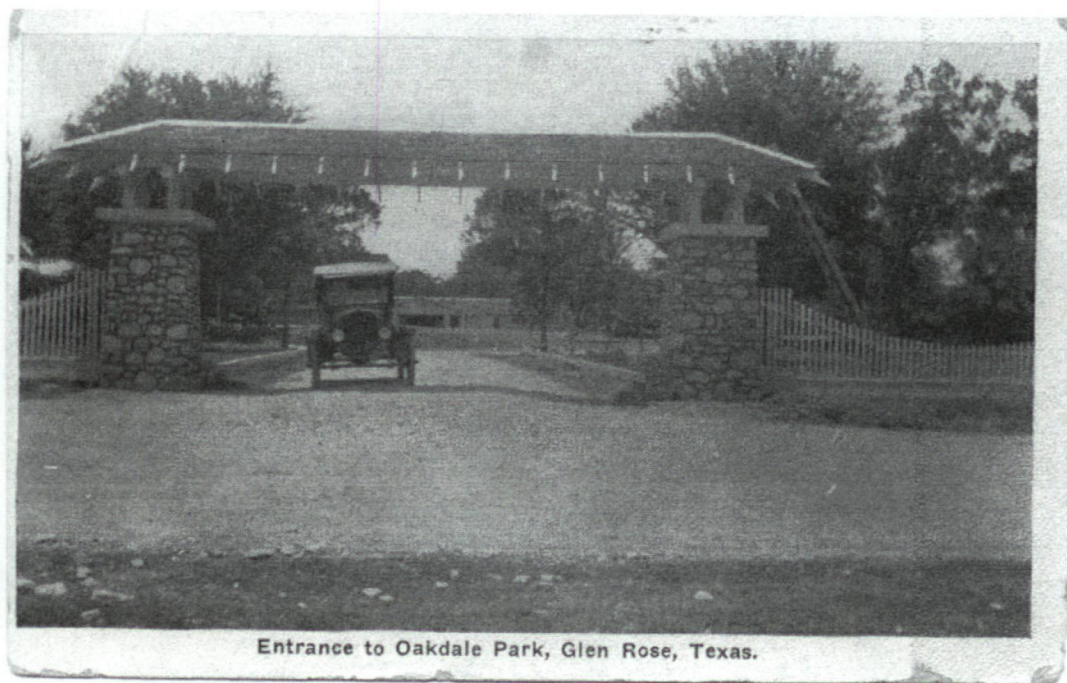
Thence with the west line of said 0.49 acre tract and the east line of said Gaither Street, North 33-49-52 West for a distance of 118.95 feet to the point of beginning.

Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

FIGURE 1. Original entrance to Martin Park, predecessor to Oakdale Park, which was located on the current west end of Oakdale Park.



FIGURE 2. Entrance to Oakdale Park, built in 1925. The original entry road, swimming pool, bathhouse, and circular roadway around the pool are visible in this photo.

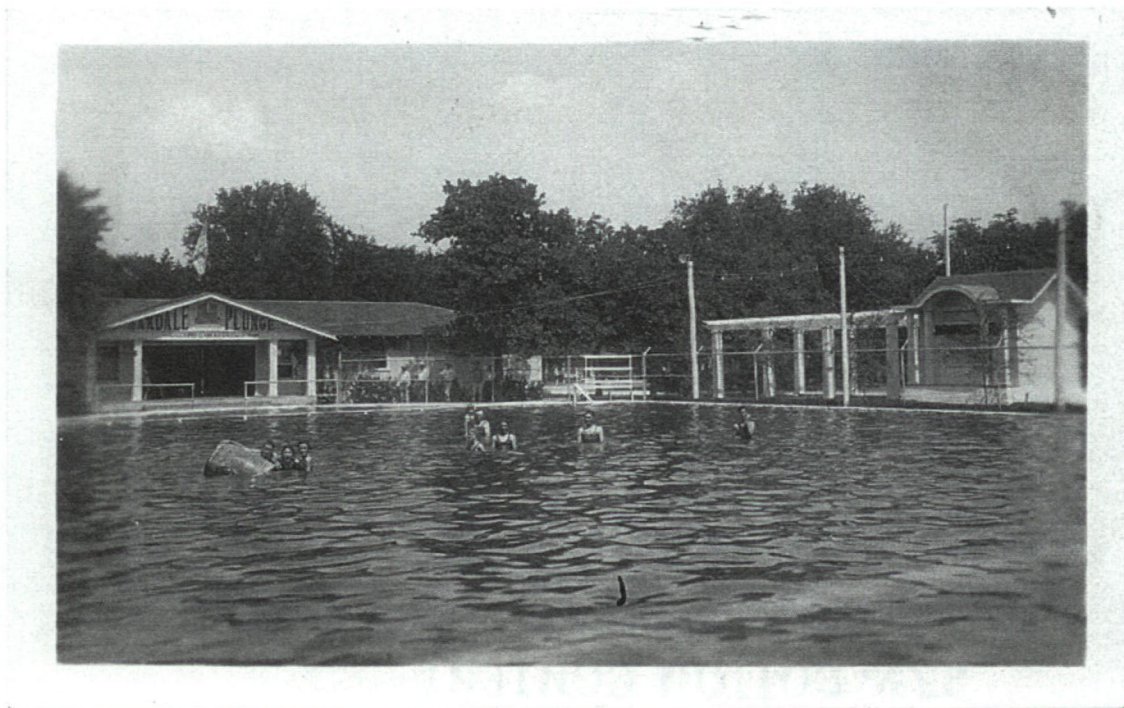


Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

FIGURE 3. Entrance to Oakdale Park. Original entry road, bathhouse and pool are shown in this photo.



FIGURE 4. Oakdale Plunge and bathhouse.

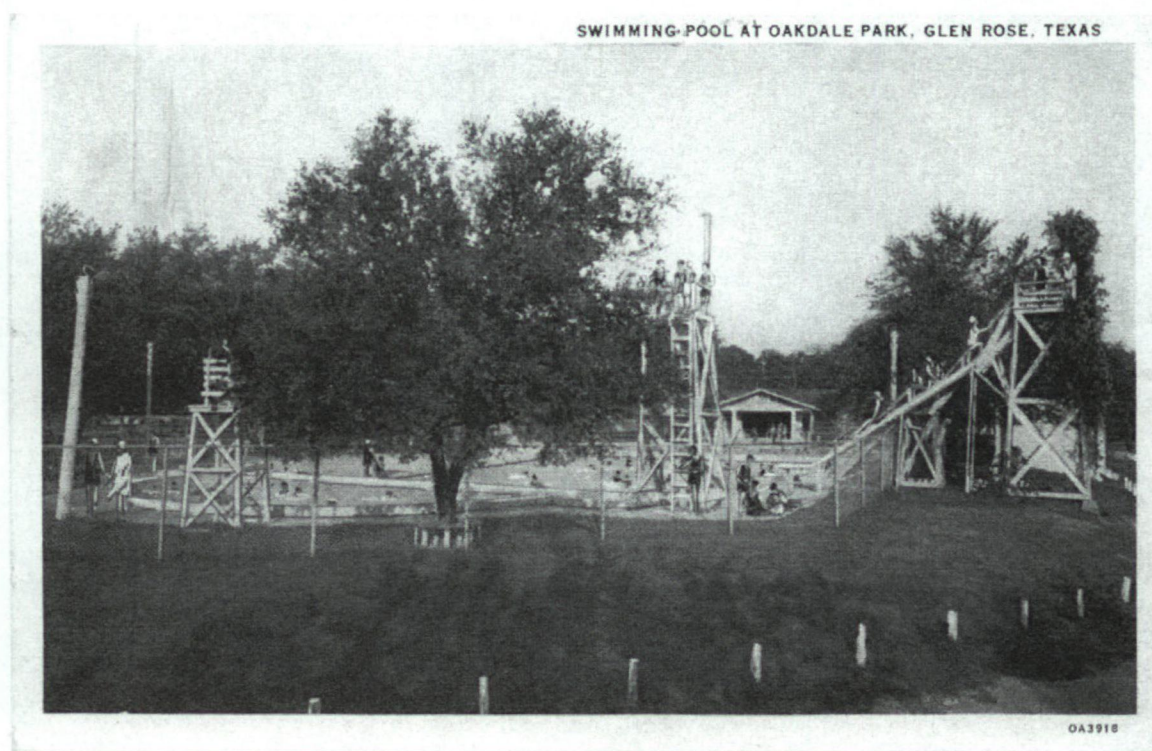


Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

FIGURE 5. Oakdale Plunge and bathhouse with chain-link fence in place.



FIGURE 6. Oakdale Park casino, southwest elevation.



Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

(top) FIGURE 7. Oakdale Plunge and bathhouse.

(bottom) FIGURE 8. Oakdale Plunge looking south toward casino.

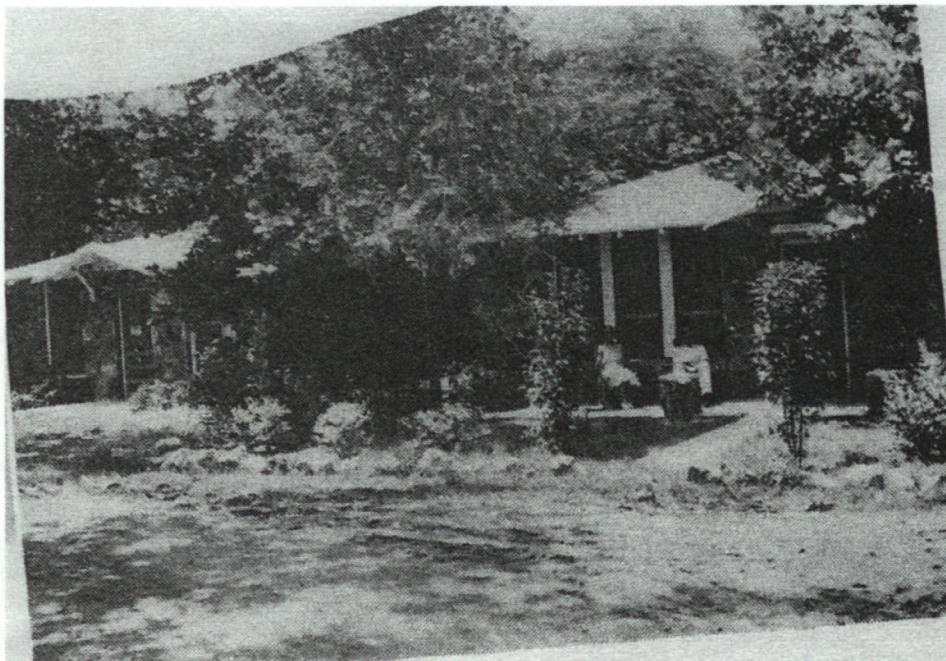


Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

FIGURE 9. Cottage belonging to O.C. Poole of Cleburne in Oakdale Park.

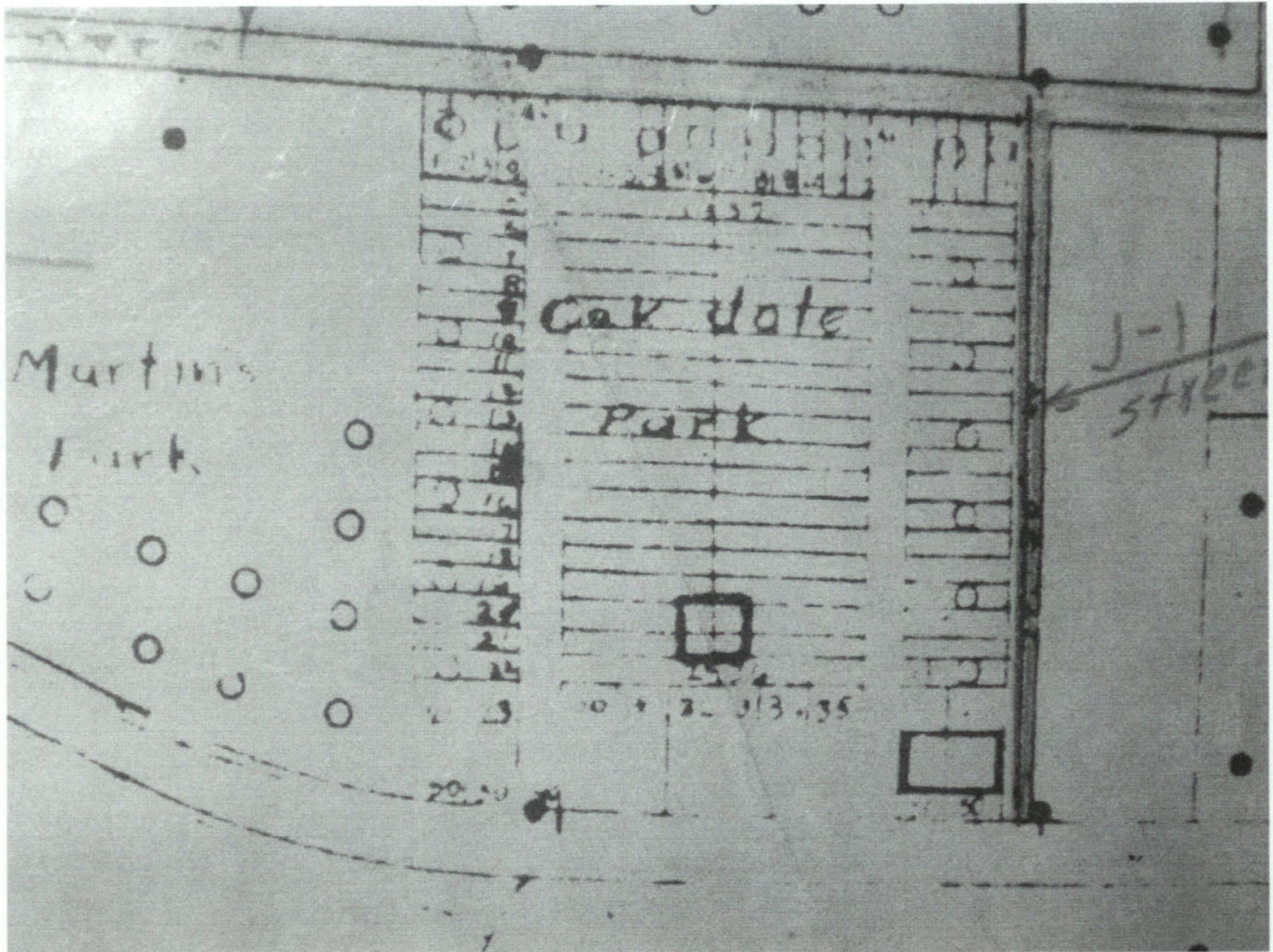


FIGURE 10. Oakdale Park cottages, circa 1930s.



Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Undated plat of Oakdale Park, circa 1925-27.



Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

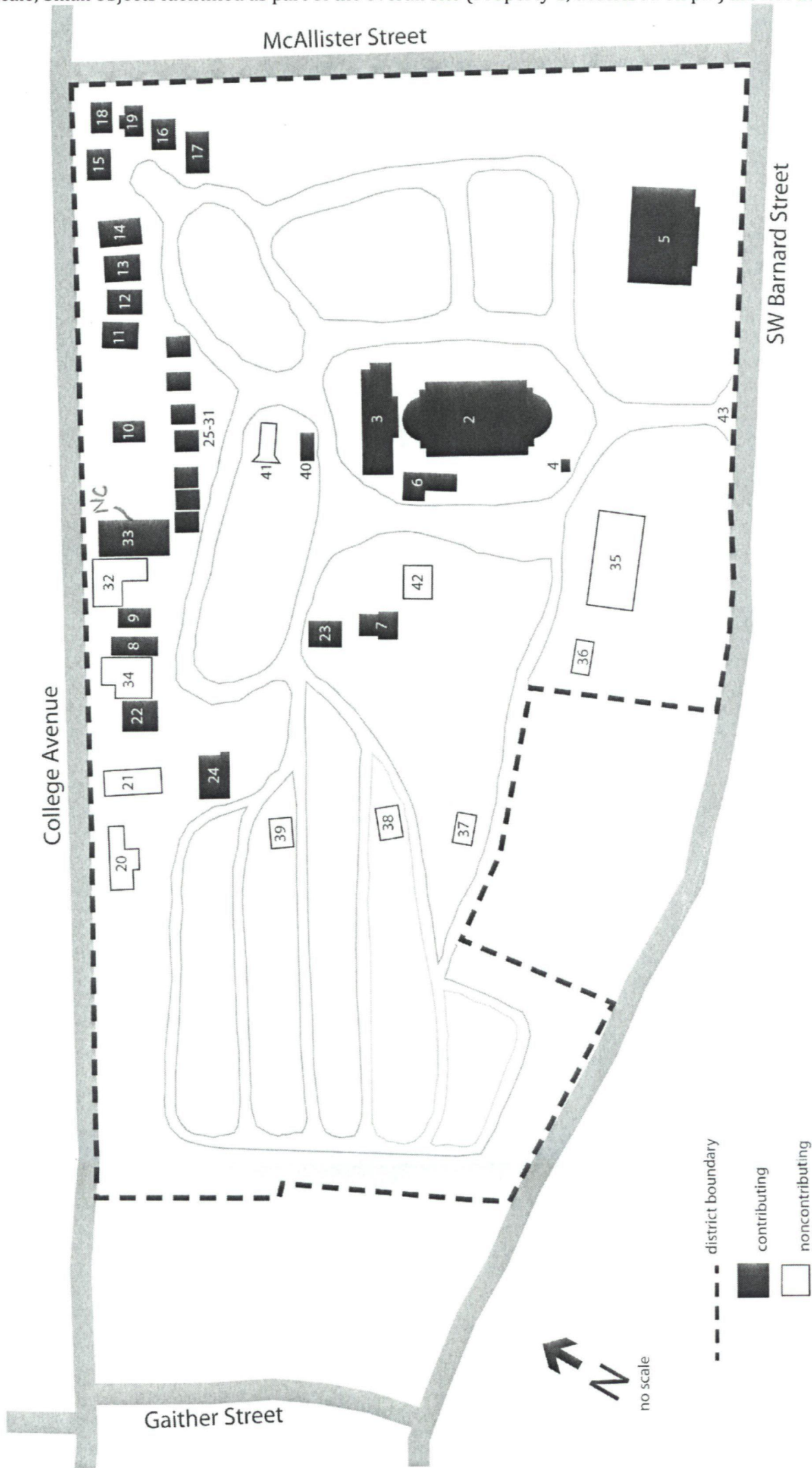
Map with UTM coordinates
Source: Google Earth, accessed April 27, 2012
UTM Zone 14



Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Oakdale Park District Map.

No scale; Small objects identified as part of the overall site (Property 1, described on p.9) are not depicted.



Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Photographs

Oakdale Park Historic District
Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas
Photographer: Mary G. Saltarelli
Date: May 24, 2011
Location of digital files: Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Photo 1 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0001.tif)
Resource 1, Park Site, Fireplace, Rock Wall, and Concrete and Rock tables
South elevation
Camera facing: North

Photo 2 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0002.tif)
Resource 2, Oakdale Plunge Swimming Pool
South elevation
Camera facing: North

Photo 3 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0003.tif)
Resource 3, Office and Original Bathhouse
Southwest elevation
Camera facing: Northeast

Photo 4 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0004.tif)
Resource 3, Office and Original Bathhouse
Southeast elevation
Camera facing: Northwest

Photo 5 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0005.tif)
Resource 3, Pool Pump House/Flowing Well Cover
Southeast elevation
Camera facing: Northwest

Photo 6 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0006.tif)
Resource 5, Casino
Northwest elevation
Camera facing: Southeast

Photo 7 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0007.tif)
Resource 7, Cottage: Pecanwood
Northeast elevation
Camera facing: Southwest

Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Photo 8 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0008.tif)

Resource 8, Cottage: Peachwood

South elevation

Camera facing: North

Photo 9 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0009.tif)

Resource 10, Cottage, Old Corral

Southeast elevation

Camera facing: Northwest

Photo 10 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0010.tif)

Resource 11, Cottage: Camper

Southwest elevation

Camera facing: Northeast

Photo 11 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0011.tif)

Resource 12, Cottage: Plumdale

South elevation

Camera facing: North

Photo 12 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0012.tif)

Resource 14, Cottage: Ferndale

Southwest elevation

Camera facing: Northeast

Photo 13 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0013.tif)

Resource 20, Cottage: Caboose

Southwest elevation

Camera facing: Northeast

Photo 14 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0014.tif)

Resource 23, Cottage: Palmdale

Northwest elevation

Camera facing: Southeast

Photo 15 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0015.tif)

Resource 24, Cottage: Bunkhouse

East elevation

Camera facing: West

Photo 16 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0016.tif)

Resources 28 - 31, Row of Cottages: Hut, Nest, Shack, and Shanty

Southwest elevation

Camera facing: Northeast

Photo 17 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0017.tif)

Resource 25, Cottage: Cave

Southwest elevation

Camera facing: Northeast

Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Photo 18 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0018.tif)

Resource 32, Cottage: Toad

South elevation

Camera facing: North

Photo 19 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0019.tif)

Resource 35, Pavilion

Northeast elevation

Camera facing: Southwest

Photo 20 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0020.tif)

Resource 36, Shelter/Outdoor Kitchen

Northeast elevation

Camera facing: Southwest

Photo 21 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0021.tif)

Resource 38, Shelter/New Bathhouse

South elevation

Camera facing: North

Photo 22 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0022.tif)

Resource 41, Stage

Southwest elevation

Camera facing: Northeast

Photo 23 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0023.tif)

Resource 43, Oakdale Park Entrance

North elevation

Camera facing: South

Photo 24 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0024.tif)

Resource 45, Site of First 101 Travel Trailer Sites on Park's East Side

West elevation

Camera facing: East

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 12000352 Date Listed: 6/15/2012

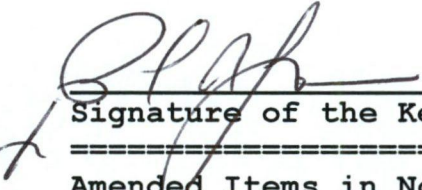
Oakdale Park
Property Name

Somervell
County

TX
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

6/15/2012
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Resource Count:

The Resource Count is revised to read:

27 Contributing Buildings and 11 Noncontributing Buildings

[These numbers are consistent with the Inventory Log and individual narrative descriptions.]

Photograph Log:

The citation in the photo log for Photograph # 5 should read: *Resource #4*

Sketch Map:

The sketch map has been revised to show Resource No. 33 (Metal Structure) as non-contributing.
[This matches the status found in the Inventory Log and Narrative Description sections.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the Texas SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Oakdale Park
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Somervell

DATE RECEIVED: 5/04/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/31/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/15/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/20/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000352

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Oakdale Park is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Architecture. First established in 1924, the park is the only remaining intact early twentieth century auto tourism park in the community of Glen Rose. A significant recreational destination associated with summer tourism and mineral waters, Glen Rose once retained multiple examples of such camps. Oakdale Park evolved over a period of years from a rudimentary tent and cabin park to a trailer camping location and retains contributing resources from each of these eras, including a significant collection of petrified wood buildings, a unique and significant local building form.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A & C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignea DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 6/15/2012

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



TO: Edson Beall
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
Washington , DC 20005

FROM: Gregory Smith
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

DATE: June 19, 2012

- The following materials regarding Oakdale park are submitted:

	Original National Register of Historic Places form
	Resubmitted nomination
	Multiple Property Documentation form
	_ Resubmitted form
	Photographs printed from digital files
	Gold CD with TIFF photograph files
	Photographs printed from negatives
	USGS map
	Correspondence – Notification of federal property owner (USPS)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Three (3) pages, revised per SLR

COMMENTS:

- ☐ SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- ☐ The enclosed owner objections (do ☐) (do not ☐) constitute a majority of property owners
- ☐ Other:



Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

	Private
X	Public - Local
	Public - State
	Public - Federal

Category of Property

	building(s)
X	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
27	11	buildings
1	0	sites
2	1	structures
0	1	objects
30	13	total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation; sports facility; music facility
DOMESTIC: camp, single dwelling (tourist cottage)

Current Functions: RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation; sports facility; music facility
DOMESTIC: camp, single dwelling (tourist cottage)

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th and 20th Century American Movements: Craftsman
NO STYLE

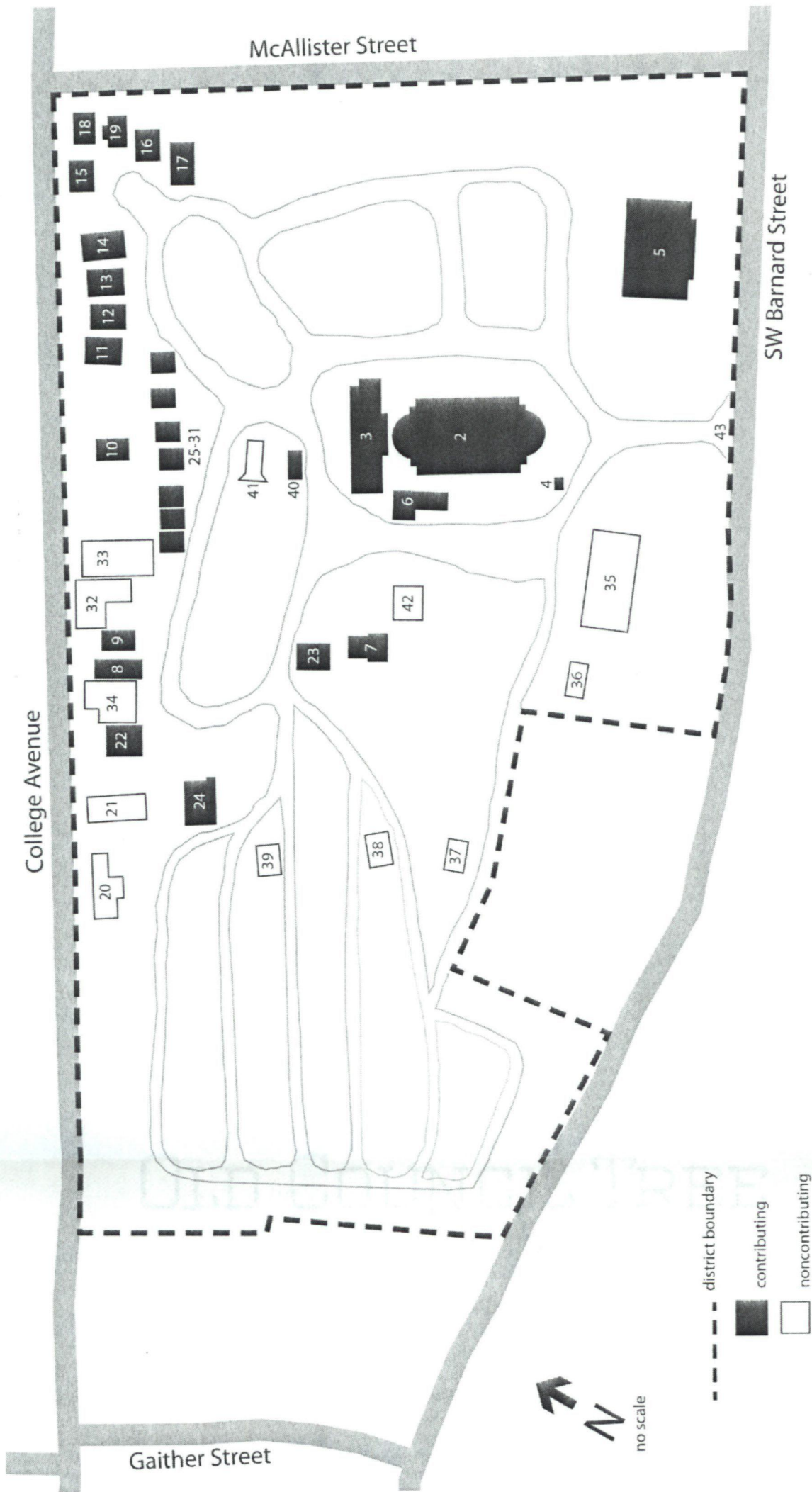
Principal Exterior Materials: Concrete, Wood, Stone (limestone, petrified wood)

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-8 through 7-21)

Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Oakdale Park District Map.

No scale; Small objects identified as part of the overall site (Property 1, described on p.9) are not depicted.



Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

Photographs

Oakdale Park Historic District
Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas
Photographer: Mary G. Saltarelli
Date: May 24, 2011
Location of digital files: Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Photo 1 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0001.tif)
Resource 1, Park Site, Fireplace, Rock Wall, and Concrete and Rock tables
South elevation
Camera facing: North

Photo 2 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0002.tif)
Resource 2, Oakdale Plunge Swimming Pool
South elevation
Camera facing: North

Photo 3 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0003.tif)
Resource 3, Office and Original Bathhouse
Southwest elevation
Camera facing: Northeast

Photo 4 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0004.tif)
Resource 3, Office and Original Bathhouse
Southeast elevation
Camera facing: Northwest

Photo 5 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0005.tif)
Resource 4, Pool Pump House/Flowing Well Cover
Southeast elevation
Camera facing: Northwest

Photo 6 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0006.tif)
Resource 5, Casino
Northwest elevation
Camera facing: Southeast

Photo 7 (TX_Somervell County_Oakdale Park_0007.tif)
Resource 7, Cottage: Pecanwood
Northeast elevation
Camera facing: Southwest



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX

Photo 1



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co.
TX
photo 2



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX
photo 3 4



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell ca TX
photo 4



oakdale park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX

photo 5



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX
photo 6



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX

photo 7



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX
photo 8



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell co.
TX
photo 9



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell co.
TX
photo 10



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co TX

photo 11



oakdale park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co.
photo 12 TK



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co.
photo 13 TX



~~oakdale~~ oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX

photo 14



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co
TX
photo 15



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co.
photo 16 TK



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX

photo 17



oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co.
TX
photo 18



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX
photo 19



oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. Tx

photo 20



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX

Photo 21



oakdale park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX

photo 22



Oakdale Park
Glen Rose, Somervell Co. TX

photo 23



OAKDALE PARK
Glen Rose, Somervell co. TX

photo 24

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION*real places telling real stories*

RECEIVED 2280

MAY 04 2012

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TO: Edson Beall
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Gregory Smith
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Oakdale Park, Glen Rose, Somervell County, Texas

DATE: May 2, 2012

- The following materials regarding Oakdale park are submitted:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resubmitted nomination
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Property Documentation form
<input type="checkbox"/>	_ Resubmitted form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs printed from digital files
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gold CD with TIFF photograph files
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photographs printed from negatives
<input type="checkbox"/>	USGS map
<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence – Notification of federal property owner (USPS)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOTE: The nomination is on a revised form, per recent NRHP guidelines. A copy of a Google Earth map with UTM coordinates is provided in lieu of a hard copy USGS map.

COMMENTS:

- ☐ SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- ☐ The enclosed owner objections (do ☐) (do not ☐) constitute a majority of property owners
- ☐ Other:

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR • SHERI S. KRAUSE, CHAIRMAN • MARK WOLFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TEXAS • 78711-2276 • P 512.463.6100 • F 512.475.4872 • TDD 1.800.735.2989 • www.thc.state.tx.us

Recommendation: SLR_Return

Action: SLR_Return_None

Documentation Issues-Discussion Sheet

State Name: TX County Name Somervell Resource Name Oakdale Park

Reference No. 12000352 Multiple Name _____

Solution:

Problem:

New form. yuk! (although data on first 4 pages)
Google Earth map does not meet our (draft) guidelines

Resolution:

SLR: Yes No

Database Change: