

Additional Information of Dewitt Clinton Sockwell and Park Place Service Station

Fowler/Chambers Reference

The most interesting, to me, reference I found to Sockwell's filling station which turned up in *Towns and Communities of Denton, County, Texas*, the compilation begun by Emily Fowler herself in the 1930s and assisted by Alma Lain Chambers, and entry for "Mrs. C.R. Fowler" reads

Mrs. C. R. Fowler

Although not so old, Mrs. C. R. Fowler has lived east of Krum since she was three years old. She was born near Denton, near where the Sockwell filling station now is. Mr. Fowler came to Krum in 1913 from Denton. Their son F. W. Fowler is the present Mayor of Krum.

Mrs. C. R. Fowler

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(<https://www.dentonpl.com/public/catalog/localhistory/townscommunitiesindentonco.pdf>, p. 37)

I find the context of Fowler/Chamber's reference to Sockwell's station is insightful. Note their casual use of the station's location as a benchmark, without providing additional street/road, compass direction, or other location information. Fowler and Chambers seem confident their readers will know the place. To me, that implies certain things about Park Place's prominence and importance as a local business.

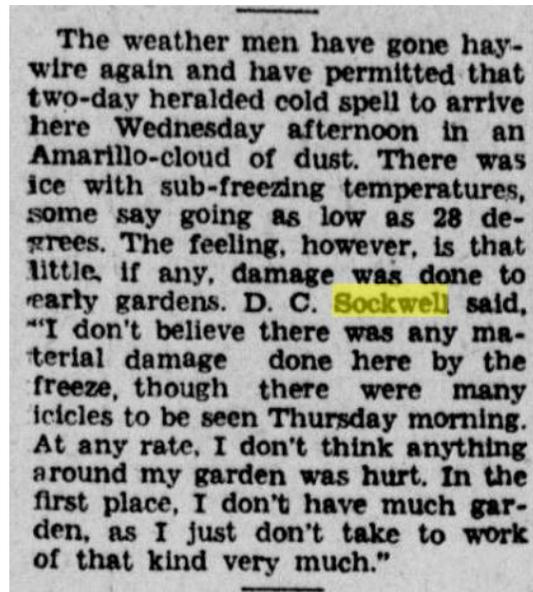
(Also, noticing their shared last names, I couldn't resist jumping down the rabbit hole and now have to share it with someone, C.R. Fowler was Emily Fowler's sister-law. "Mrs. Clarence Roy Fowler" or, as we would say, Hannah M Fowler (Miller), was married to Clarence Roy Fowler. Clarence was the brother of Otis Fowler, Emily's husband.)

1965 Zoning Documents

I also found some 1965 zoning documents which shed some interesting context both of the site itself and the general area, attached as the .pdf "11-1965" Page one shows the area actually in transition, being rezoned from "R" (dwelling) to "LB" (local business). Page two gives a detailed description of the Sockwell site and what borders it. The "Denton Osteopathic Hospital and Clinic," if I am understanding the document correctly, is where the University Behavioral Health facility is today. I was interested that there has apparently been a medical facility of some kind of that site of so long. I was also interested in the "iron stake" which it seemed marked the corners of the Sockwell property.

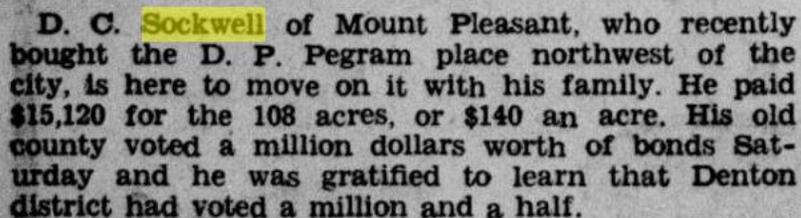
Additional *Record Chronicle* References

Sockwell was quoted in the DRC "Round About Town" section, saying that an unseasonably late winter storm had not done any damage to early gardens. (DRC, Mar 7, 1935 p1)



The weather men have gone hay-wire again and have permitted that two-day heralded cold spell to arrive here Wednesday afternoon in an Amarillo-cloud of dust. There was ice with sub-freezing temperatures, some say going as low as 28 degrees. The feeling, however, is that little, if any, damage was done to early gardens. D. C. Sockwell said, "I don't believe there was any material damage done here by the freeze, though there were many icicles to be seen Thursday morning. At any rate, I don't think anything around my garden was hurt. In the first place, I don't have much garden, as I just don't take to work of that kind very much."

As part of a retrospective series called "19 years ago today" the DRC reprinted a notice from the March 15, 1919 DRC about Sockwell's purchase of the parcel of land (weird that my research turned up the reprint but not the original, but I guess that's how it goes sometimes) that gives the exact size and value of the Sockwell's original purchase. (reprint DRC March 16, 1938)



D. C. Sockwell of Mount Pleasant, who recently bought the D. P. Pegram place northwest of the city, is here to move on it with his family. He paid \$15,120 for the 108 acres, or \$140 an acre. His old county voted a million dollars worth of bonds Saturday and he was gratified to learn that Denton district had voted a million and a half.

Also, this would suggest that Sockwell may have arrived in Denton from Alabama *via Mt. Pleasant?*

While I knew about that his property was originally a dairy, somehow I didn't turn up the articles on his involvement with the dairy association. I did, however, find that he was involved with the similar cotton association, became chairman of the Denton Cotton Committee (DRC, Jan 5, 1934, p. 14; DRC Feb 8,, 1934, p. 4)

Oh, also, he sold his electric fencer (I didn't even know this was a thing) (DRC June 16, 1947, p. 7)



ELECTRIC FENCER, good as new. D. C. Sockwell. Phone 41-P-3. Sockwell Filling Station, Highway 24.

NO. 65-44

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS, 1961, AS SAME WAS ADOPTED AS A PART OF PARTS II AND III OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS, BY ORDINANCE NO. 61-19, AND AS SAID MAP APPLIES TO CITY LOTS 5, 6 AND 7 OF CITY BLOCK 4071, AS SHOWN ON THE OFFICIAL CITY MAP OF CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN; PROVIDING CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS, HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION I.

That the Zoning Map of the City of Denton, Texas, 1961, adopted as a part of the Parts II and III of Chapter 13 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Denton, Texas, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 61-19 be, and the same is hereby, amended as follows:

All of the hereinafter described property is hereby removed from the "R" Dwelling District as shown on said map, and all provisions of Parts II and III of Chapter 13 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Denton, Texas, as provided by Ordinance No. 61-19, shall hereafter apply to said property as "LB" - Local Business District in the same manner as other property located in the "LB" - Local Business District provided, however, this zoning change is conditioned upon the provision that a 60 feet (60) wide street which would extend the existing Ector Street North across this property be dedicated and properly constructed prior to any development of this tract of land by any person, firm or corporation, and no Certificate of Occupancy will be issued prior to the fulfillment of this condition, and the validity of this entire ordinance depends and is based upon the validity of this condition, this condition being a reasonable exercise of the police powers of the City of Denton, Texas, said property being described as:

Three tracts in the Robert Beaumont Survey, Abstract No. 31, totaling 5.34 acres, being all that property owned by Ira DeWitt Sockwell, Et Ux and Glen R. Wilkinson, Et Ux of said survey, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a corner of the North boundary line of State Highway 24 thence North with the East boundary line of tract belonging to Denton Osteopathic Hospital and Clinic 526 feet to an iron stake for corner;

THENCE East 588 feet to an iron stake for corner;

THENCE South 300 feet to an iron stake for corner in the West boundary line of a Public Road; said road leading South to State Highway 24 being 36 feet in width and 407 feet in length dedicated in accordance with District Court Stipulation in Cause No. 27301 April 28, 1965;

THENCE West 338 feet to an iron stake located 225 feet North of the North boundary line of State Highway 24;

THENCE South 225 feet to the North boundary line of State Highway 24;

THENCE West 250 feet along North boundary line of State Highway 24 to the place of beginning, containing 5.34 acres of land.

This property is located on the North side of Highway 24 West, adjacent to the East property line of the Osteopathic Clinic. This property runs 256 feet along Highway 24 West, 526 feet across the West boundary line and 588 feet across North boundary line.

SECTION II.

That the City Council of the City of Denton, Texas, hereby finds that such change and condition is in accordance with a comprehensive plan for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of the City of Denton, and with reasonable consideration among other things, for the character of the district and for its peculiar suitability or particular uses, and with a view to conserving the value of buildings, protecting human lives, and encouraging the most appropriate uses of land for the maximum benefit to the City of Denton and its citizens.

SECTION III.

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately after its passage and approval, the required public hearings having heretofore been held by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council, after giving due notice thereof.

**Park Place Object
Measurements and Specific Cost Projections**

The HLC ISR wall fragment at the Park Place Service station included the following cost estimates:

- Excavation of Wall: \$10.75 per cubic yard
- Removal of Wall: \$50 per square yard (+ additional cost for conservation measures)
- Relocation of Wall: \$6.50 per square yard
- Resetting the Wall: \$100 per square yard

The ISR report notes these estimates use the Texas Department of Transportation’s BID Item Averages and that they were reviewed and confirmed by the City of Denton’s Public Works Inspection Manager, Wesley McBride.

While the Park Place object is irregular in shape, it can be separated into components (here referred to as “post” and “wall”) which are relatively regular in shape and can be measured with relatively little difficulty so that volume and surface area can be calculated.

Post

- Height: 21”
- Width: 17”
- Depth: 17”
- Volume: 6,069 cubic inches = 0.13 cubic yard
- Surface Area: 1,717 square inches = 1.32 square yard

Wall

- Height: Max: 18” / Min 11” (at a consistent slope, average 14.5”)
- Length: 34”
- Depth: 8”
- Volume: 3,944 cubic inches = 0.08 cubic yard
- Surface Area: 1,375 square inches = 1.06 square yard

Combining totals for each component gives the following measurements for the Park Place Fragment:

Fragment Total

	Post	Wall	Total
Volume	0.13 cy	0.08 cy	0.21 cy
Surface Area	1.32 sy	1.06 sy	2.38 sy

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Applying those measurements to the cost estimates provided yields the following amounts:

• Excavation:	$\$10.75/\text{cy} \times 0.21 \text{ cy} =$	\$2.26
• Removal:	$\$50/\text{sy} * 2.38 \text{ sy} =$	\$119.00 (+ conservation cost)
• Relocation:	$\$6.50/\text{sy} * 2.38 \text{ sy} =$	\$15.47
• Resetting:	$\$100/\text{sy} * 2.38 \text{ sy} =$	\$238
TOTAL		\$374.73

Subsurface:

The big question mark here is how deep the wall goes down into the earth (while I was confident going out there with a measuring tape, I wasn't comfortable taking a shovel). Quick online research suggests that a foundation depth of approximately 1/3 a wall's height is a good rule of thumb. If that is the case with the Park Place object, the additional volume and surface area would increase costs by \$123.66, to a total of \$498.39





