

Cullins Road History & Info

The Cullins Road property was a diamond in the rough when we found it in 1996. The pond was hardly visible behind the scrub trees, shrubs, and tall grass. The owners had a vision for what it could be, and they worked hard for the next two years to bring it to what it is today, adding sod, putting in flower beds, and planting trees.

The Land and Pond

- The pond has been here for over 75 years. A former neighbor, who passed away about 10 years ago, told us stories about going frog-gigging in our pond when he was a boy. In 1998, we drained and re-dug it to 17' deep. It's stocked with bass, some of which are enormous.
- Please take note of some of the wildlife in the area: Mallard ducks, Canadian geese, blue, gray, and white Herons, Martins, Hawks, rabbits, turtles, and squirrels.

The Crepe Myrtles

We bought and planted the crepe myrtles lining the driveway in 1998. They form such a beautiful canopy over the driveway and bloom white when it rains.

Solid Oak Beams

The beams came out of a 200+ year old gristmill in Pennsylvania. Leslie found the supplier in the back of *Country Living Magazine*, in the days before the Internet. The supplier sent us a Polaroid photo of the timbers still intact—to make sure they were what we wanted. They're not structural because our engineer didn't know what kind of shape they'd be in, but they certainly could be. Our framer nearly had a stroke when he saw how huge they were. It took four men inching them up on supports to get them into place.

Pine Plank Flooring

We also found this supplier, Carlisle Flooring, in *Country Living Magazine* and had the flooring shipped from New Hampshire. It's sealed with a product called tung oil. Unlike polyurethane, which sits on the top of the surface, tung oil seeps into the wood an inch or so to make it water resistant. You don't have to panic when the kids spill something. We used cut nails to finish the authentic, rustic look of a country store.

The Two-Sided Fireplace

The owners appreciated the idea of open concept before Chip and Joanna Gaines made that a household phenomenon, so a Great Room made sense to them. Plus, they wanted to be able to enjoy their fireplace during meals, as well as during the evening activities. It has a propane starter that could be converted to gas logs if someone preferred that.

The Porch

The outdoor living space includes more than 1,350 square feet of covered porches, giving you plenty of space to spread out. The screened-in area helps reduce the number of mosquitos and other bugs.

The Foundation

The owner was in the construction industry for over a decade and understood the nature of the shifting soil in north Texas. He decided to build a pier-and-beam foundation to circumvent potential problems. It has done that and more. The foundation, combined with the pine floors, makes it much easier for people to stand and walk without getting so tired.

The Flex Space

Originally just for storage, the owners finished out the apartment above the garage in 2006. At various times, it's been an apartment, a game room, a home theater, and a home office. It has lots of storage under the eaves. Our contractor suggested the Juliet porch, and it's been put to good use, including being the DJ spot at our daughter's wedding.

Other cool items:

- The iron "Track" sign used for the **vent hood** came out of an old railway station in Chicago. We spotted it in Olla Podrida, an artisan mall in Dallas that has since been razed. We added the stained glass to soften the look.
- We purchased the **massive hutch**, made from reclaimed wood, from the now-closed Philbeck's in Forney, TX. To fit this piece into the house, we had to extend the dining room wall from the original house plans.
- We installed a geo-thermal heating and cooling unit to help regulate energy bills.
- We just had the pool resurfaced three years ago.
- Metal roofs typically last between 50-100 years. It's wonderful to listen to the rain fall on the roof.
- We picked out our actual pallets of rock for the exterior, the fireplace and the pool from a supplier east of Fort Worth. It is aptly named Granbury Stone. Watching the installers put in the gorgeous rock, with its tan, gray, orangey-gold, and white surfaces, was like watching a jigsaw puzzle.