

# The Pool of Terre Haute

**57 S 21st Street, Terre Haute, Indiana**

Description: two story single-family residence, wooden frame, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, car park to the side, decent yard in back. Unoccupied, but maintained. There is a hatch in the basement that leads to a pre-Columbian underground stone-lined room. The room has a shallow (1ft deep) pool in the exact center: there is no obvious water source, but the water is continually clear and fresh.

Properties: variable. Drinking from the pool results in a dramatic transformation of some sort. The effects range from the mundane (winning the lottery, going blind) to the unquestionably esoteric (de-aging, bodily transformation, instant and irrevocable death), but the effects are always permanent, and people only get one drink from the Pool. Theurgists and magicians both report that the *anima* behind the Pool is essentially benevolent, but it is neither 'nice' nor 'sentimental.' At least, towards adults; the Pool is remarkably more forgiving and solicitous of children.

Yes, one would think that the Pool at 57 S 21st Street, Terre Haute, Indiana would be guarded, protected, fought

over, booby-trapped, or otherwise interfered with on a regular basis. The Pool is none of those things, probably because the Pool prefers to be left alone. The local authorities maintain the house built over the Pool, and keep an eye on who goes in and out. Traffic is surprisingly light, though. Most people who use the Pool keep pretty quiet about it, and every attempt to corrupt and/or wreck the Pool has ended badly for the would-be desecrators. Word's gotten out that it's not to be casually messed with.

But the Pool also takes pretty much anyone. As the above suggests, it's not a good idea for bad people to use the Pool -- and even good people are not always going to get a beneficial transformation. Sometimes -- usually -- the Pool gives you what it thinks you should have, not what it wants. Fortunately for most users, the Pool is very good at figuring out what you should have. Which is good, because there's no take-backs.

What are the Pool's long-term goals, though? It apparently doesn't have any. It's just there. Those who have contacted the Pool's *anima* report that it seems to be mostly in a state where it watches and waits, although what it's waiting **for** remains unclear. But it's old. The Pool's so old that it apparently remembers when the first people came to this continent. Although it resolutely

refuses to discuss anything about its own personal history, including what it did before **it** came to this continent, either. Apparently it's none of humanity's blessed business.

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