

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received AUG 18 1980

date entered APR 15 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Petroleum Building

and/or common Petroleum

**2. Location**

street & number 420 South Boulder St N/A not for publication

city, town Tulsa N/A vicinity of congressional district 1

state Oklahoma code 40 county Tulsa code 143

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> NA in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name John L. Boyd

street & number 420 South Boulder

city, town Tulsa vicinity of state Oklahoma

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tulsa County Courthouse

street & number 500 Civic Center

city, town Tulsa state Oklahoma

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey/Tulsa  
title Historic Preservation Office Inv. has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978/1977-1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Tulsa Historic Preservation Office, 411 South Denver

city, town Tulsa state Oklahoma

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The ten story Petroleum Building is a rectangular steel and reinforced concrete structure faced with buff brick. Horizontal stone bands above the mezzanine, second and eighth stories balance the verticality of the paired double-hung windows set off by brick piers. Cartouches above the second and eighth stories soften the building's straightforward lines. A dentiled cornice tops the building. The stone faced base has twelve store fronts and two canopied entrances to the store and elevator lobby.

The narrow elevator lobby, with its marble walls and intricate plaster-work ceiling, retains mirrored doors one of the three elevator cabs. The other two have been replaced with self-service models. Street front elevation windows are double-hung wood, but most light well windows are steel casement. The hallway ceilings have a deep cove concealing the air conditioning ductwork installed in the late 1940's.

Mayo Furniture occupied the first through third floors until 1972 and these floors have been repeatedly altered. The eighth floor has been completely redone by the building's new owners, but the remaining six floors are largely original and feature bordered terrozzo floors, door-knobs monogrammed "M" for Mayo, and extensive varnished woodwork.

CRID NO. 1024-0018  
FEB 10 1982

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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received	MAR 5 1982
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Petroleum Building  
Tulsa County  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Item #7 Description

The Petroleum Building is architecturally significant as an example of a typical office building dating from Tulsa's pre art deco construction boom. It is somewhat unique in that it is one of only a few remaining buildings from this time period retaining it's original simple facade. Although examples of architecture of this type were numerous in Tulsa in year's past only a handful remain today. This building is of particular importance because of it's singular identification with it's original developer, the Mayo famil, who maintained their own offices as well as their furniture store in the building.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1921

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Petroleum Building is significant as a typical office building which retains its simple facade dating from Tulsa's pre-Art Deco construction boom period. It is also significant for its associations with one of the city's leading families. This building is one of several erected by the Mayos along Fifth Street. It is especially identified with the family because it housed the Mayo Furniture business for over fifty years. The Mayo brothers, with their real estate holdings, furniture store, and deluxe hotel, were numbered among Tulsa's foremost promoters.

Until his death, C.A. Mayo maintained offices in the building. The second generation of Mayos is represented among the building's tenants today.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Interviews with the Mayo family.  
Interviews with building tenants.  
Petroleum Building rent records.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Tulsa

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	5	2	3	0	8	7	0	4	0	0	4	6	5	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

South 77.5 feet lot 4, block 134 Original Town

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Jennings & Staff; Edited by Kent Ruth 405/884/5456

organization Tulsa Historic Preservation date June 1978

street & number 411 South Denver telephone 918/585-2681

city or town Tulsa state Oklahoma

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title SHPO Cemecalp SHPO date 3-2-82 8/10/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Brannon</u>	date <u>4.15.82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Item number

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Petroleum Building  
Tulsa County  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Item #8 Statement of Significance

The Petroleum Building, so named because the majority of early tenants were associated with the petroleum industry, was the second of three buildings built along Fifth Street from Main Street. The Mayo family, with their extensive real estate holdings, oil interests, furniture store and deluxe hotel were, and are, still numbered among Tulsa's leading families. Until his death, C. A. Mayo was one of Tulsa's foremost promoters. In addition to housing the Mayo family furniture store and company offices, the building was also home to several early major Tulsa oil companies, hence its historic name, the Petroleum Building. Among these early tenants were the Barnsdall Oil Company, later to merge with Sun Oil Company, which occupied over 50% of the structure; Tidewater Oil Company; and other small oil companies and the offices of T. Austin Gavin, an early Tulsa developer and prominent attorney.

The Petroleum Building has been rehabilitated under the provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976. On December 10, 1979, the Keeper of the Register made a preliminary determination of the building's eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places after a review of Part 1, "Historic Preservation Certification Application. The rehabilitation work has been completed, and the owners await final certification of the project.