UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

00T 1 4 1975

STATE

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

APR 3

1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN <i>HOW</i> TYPE ALL ENTRIES	TO COMPLETE NATION. COMPLETE APPLICABI		
NAME HISTORIC Lester & Haltom #1 Well	Lan one redged blo	ens to este susees we redayd isolati The padatatang su	ng anil duros diffus
AND/OR COMMON Hunter #1 Well	re the grown (are su	undrasmush politi	maut
STREET & NUMBER Old Wire Road	hens on	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	sey 13 Thous
CITY, TOWN Stephens	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	CT
STATE Arkansas	CODE 05	COUNTY Ouachita	CODE 103
CLASSIFICATION	To east, suplated in	NE STON LETOVAS	entigno -
CATEGORY DISTRICTPUBLICBUILDING(S)	STATUS OCCUPIED LUNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE YES: RESTRICTED VES: UNRESTRICTED NO	PRESE _AGRICULTURE _COMMERCIAL _EDUCATIONAL _ENTERTAINMENT _GOVERNMENT _INDUSTRIAL _MILITARY	MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDEN RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATIO XOTHER: NONE
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME Mrs. Lossie Haltom		ncing the well and	
STREET & NUMBER	-SILVE S	no viesaminaringo o	535W04
Church Street CITY. TOWN Stephens	_ VICINITY OF	STATE Arkansas	e model Director Traven
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESC		an Broscott Balt . Pri	DYSDOD
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC. Ouachita Count	ty Court House		
STREET & NUMBER			
CITY. TOWN Camden,		STATE Arkansas	
REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	TING SURVEYS		
DATE			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
CITY, TOWN		CTATE	

CONDITION

__EXCELLENT

_FAIR

X_DETERIORATED
RUINS

UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED _X_ALTERED

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

X_ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present site of the Old Lester and Haltom #1 Well is overgrown with scrub timber, bushes and briars. The growth is so thick that very little sunlight penetrates. The remains of the oil well consist of a mound, an oil-blackened trail, a turnbuckle now embedded in a tree, and four easily identified depressions in the ground (as shown in the attached diagram). The depressions, of course, have become more shallow during the approximately 55 years since production ceased, but they are still distinct enough that their functions are easily determined.

When the well "blew" in 1920, much more than depressions and a mound were here. According to local authorities in Stephens, trails marked the paths which mules followed as they carried water from a nearby creek to the water reservoir. The boiler sitting atop the mound provided steam for the steam engine several yards away near the base of the oil derrick.

Rising high above the steam engine was the crowning feature of the assemblage —
the wooden oil derrick itself, made of sturdy pine lumber. A number of
cables stretched from nearby anchors to points high up on the derrick to
hold the derrick erect and steady. Beneath the derrick a ribbon of drilling
"mud" flowed from the drill hole to the mud pit. Mules walking beside the
mud pit drew board paddles back and forth through the pit to keep the drilling
mud of the proper consistency and to mix into the mud additional chemicals
if needed; this process was necessary if the mud was to do its job when packed
back into the drill hole.

Surrounding the well and related equipment were numerous wooden sheds - equipment sheds, a shed where the cooking was done, etc. The whole site covered approximately one acre.

Soon after the few months during which the Lester and Haltom #1 Well was producing, the steam engine and other equipment were removed to other and newer oil fields. The derrick itself simply decayed and fell and finished decaying. The forest has since been cleared of the tall pines so that now only scrub timber and underbrush are left.

RESERVATION IN EXPENSE CONTRACTOR SERVING SERVING CONTRACTOR CONTR

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

__COMMUNITY PLANNING _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

_PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __RELIGION _1400-1499 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC CONSERVATION _LAW _SCIENCE _1500-1599 AGRICULTURE XECONOMICS _LITERATURE SCULPTURE

_1600-1699 _ARCHITECTURE _EDUCATION _MILITARY _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN _1700-1799 ART ENGINEERING MUSIC __THEATER

_1800-1899 _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT XCOMMERCE __PHILOSOPHY _TRANSPORTATION X 1900-__COMMUNICATIONS XINDUSTRY __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _OTHER (SPECIFY)

_INVENTION

April 14, 1920 SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Hunter Oil Company

medicine Harm

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On April 14, 1920, oil was first discovered in Arkansas when the Lester and Haltom #1 Well "blew" about three miles northeast of Stephens. was the first of a multitude of oil discoveries which would come in rapid succession and which would change the face, physical and economic, of much of southwest Arkansas. After this, the face of the land would be characterized not only by pine forests, grazing cattle and crops, but also by the derricks and refineries symbolizing Arkansas' newly found mineral wealth. Trucks, pulling great tanks of petroleum and petroleum products, would soon be traveling the roads and highways of Ouachita, Union and Columbia counties. Thousands of Arkansas men would leave the plow behind to work in refineries or drive trucks. The number of wealthy men in oil towns like Stephens would increase drastically and suddenly.

As drastic as the effects were, the discovery of oil in Arkansas had been anticipated for many years. In 1887 the first Arkansas well was drilled in Fort Smith. During the ensuing 32 years many more wells were drilled in Arkansas, but no oil was found - only gas. Then in the summer of 1919, the Hunter Oil Company moved onto the Haltom-Lester lease near Stephens. The following spring, it was confirmed - Arkansas had oil.

The Lester-Haltom #1 Well itself never became a very significant producer; it was never commercially profitable. It produced from 70 to 100 barrels a day for a few months and then stopped producing. The first commercial producer was the "Busey Well" in El Dorado, which came in several months after the Lester and Haltom #1 Well. It was at El Dorado, not Stephens, that Arkansas' first oil boom took place. Then, over a year after the El Dorado discovery, oil was discovered at Smackover; it was the Smackover field which was to be Arkansas' greatest oil producer.

Thus the Lester & Haltom #1 Well must be seen in proper perspective; it was not the first well drilled in Arkansas, nor was it the first commercially profitable well in the state. But, all this does not detract from the significance of the Lester & Haltom #1 well as the site of the first discovery of oil in Arkansas.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFER	LENCES	SUBSTITUTE NATIONAL SERVICES
Branner, George C. Outlines of Arkansa Bureau of Mines, Manafactures an Reveley, Charles T. Interviewed July 1	d Agriculture and Sta	Little Rock:
"Stephens Field Produces Most Oil in Ar	ea." <u>Camden News</u> , Ca	amden, Arkansas, June 25,
1949. "What The Papers Say." The Stephens Ne	ws,Stephens, Arkansas	s, April 24, 1920.
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Property Lester & Halton #1 Well Site	Ouachita Co.
State Arkansas Working Number 10.14.75.1795	76000442
TECHNICAL Photos Maps	CONTROL OK 10.20.75
I disagree with ERIC. The Site is associated with a that have made a significant Contribution to our and possesses integrity of ocation, feeling etc. While the mentioned may also be eligible and have more arche potential This is an important historic site with or archeological potential Accept with 2/24/76	othersites W.R. Luce ological without 2/5/76
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS SITE IS END OF ITS ARCHEOLOBICAL POTENTIAL OR ITS STATE, THEREFORE, I FEEL ELIS ARGUMENTS AT RELEVANT TO DOR EVALUATION. ACCEPT LA 3.25	EPEWDENT ACCEPT BARREN LEBOYKH EROUGH 2-4-76
	OTHER
Tould recommend that the name of the property incorporate the work of this site is very marginal because there is literally not burviving and nothing to interpret archeologically. I would much have received a nomination for wells at El Dorado or Smackever if of these sites exhibit any visible remains.	ing rather Inventory BNB 71/76
1, too, disagree w/ Eric. This is an historic site, which has maintained integrations to the historic of the oil development and is therefore acceptable Accept Colz 3/26/16	REVIEW UNIT CHIEF ACCUPT Cole 2/27/76 BRANCH CHIEF
	. VEDDUD
Significan and interpret gitte justified	Thung of Muly
National Register Write-up Send-back Federal Register Entry Re-submit	Entered APR 3 1978

OIL

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service WASO No. 7



MOUND ON WHICH STEAM BOILER SAT STEPHENS, ARK! I WELL

8-5-75

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

> UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	′		
RECEIVEDOCT 1 4	1975		
DATE ENTERED	APR	3	1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

TYP	E ALL ENTRIES ENCL	OSE WITH PHOTOGRA	APH
1 NAME			
HISTORIC			
LESTER & HALTOM #1	WELL		
AND/OR COMMON			
HUNTER #1 WELL			
2 LOCATION			
CITY, TOWN	VICINITY OF	COUNTY	STATE
STEPHENS		OUACHITA	ARKANSAS
PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT JACK DOSS		DATE OF PHOTO	8-5-75
NEGATIVE FILED AT ARKANSAS HI	STORIC PRESERVATION	PROGRAM	
4 IDENTIFICATION			

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

MOUND ON WHICH STEAM BOILER SAT

PHOTO NO

INT: 2983-75



DEPRESSION - WHERE HOLE WAS PRILLED STEPHENS, ARK.

8-5-75

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 4/3/76
Title: Lester Halton Horl well site
Cuacheta County, He Kung
Loc. Legrussin a when hale
was drilled
246



MUD PIT LESTER & HALTOM # 7 WELL STEPHENS, ARK 8-5-7 Form No. 10-301a

(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NAME

HISTORIC

LESTER & HALTOM #1 WELL

AND/OR COMMON

HUNTER #1 WELL

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

_VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

STEPHENS

OUACHITA

ARKANSAS

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

JACK DOSS

DATE OF PHOTO 8-5-75

NEGATIVE FILED AT

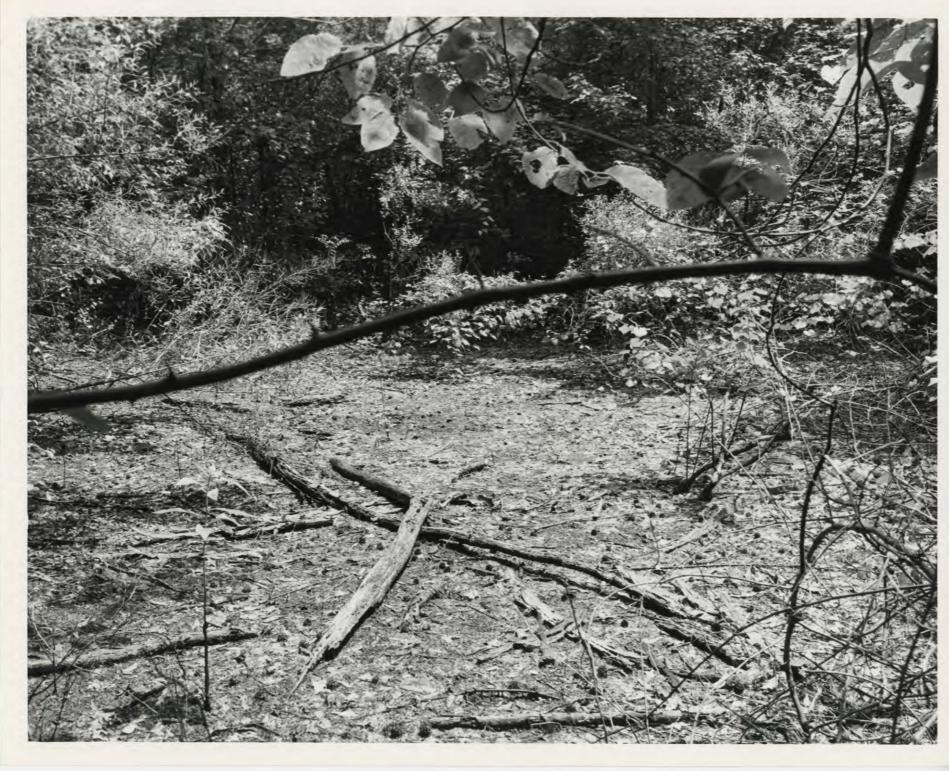
ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET MUD PIT

PHOTO NO 3 ap6

INT: 2983-75



SLUSH PIT LESTER & HALTOM # I WELL STEPH-"

8-5- Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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1 NAME

HISTORIC

LESTER & HALTOM #1 WELL

AND/OR COMMON

HUNTER #1 WELL

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

STEPHENS

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

JACK DOSS

DATE OF PHOTO

8-5-75

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

4 46

SLUSH PIT

INT: 2983-75

Loc. Slush pit



TURNBUCKLES, ONE OF WHICH EMBEDDED IN TR LESTER & HALTOM # 1 WELL

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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AND/OR COMMON

HUNTER #1 WELL

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CITY, TOWN

STEPHENS

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

JACK DOSS

DATE OF PHOTO

8-5-75

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ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

TURNBUCKLES, ONE OF WHICH EMBEDDED IN TREE

PHOTO NO

5 46

INT: 2983-75

embedded in tree



Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DATE OF PHOTO

8-5-75

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ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

CONCRETE CASING - FORMERLY ENCASED FOOT OF A DERRICK LEG

6 46

INT: 2983-75

Form No. 10-30 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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RECEIVED OCT 1 4 1975

APR 3 1976

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

LESTER & HALTOM #1 WELL

AND/OR COMMON

HUNTER #1 WELL

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

STEPHENS

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE ARKANSAS

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SCALE

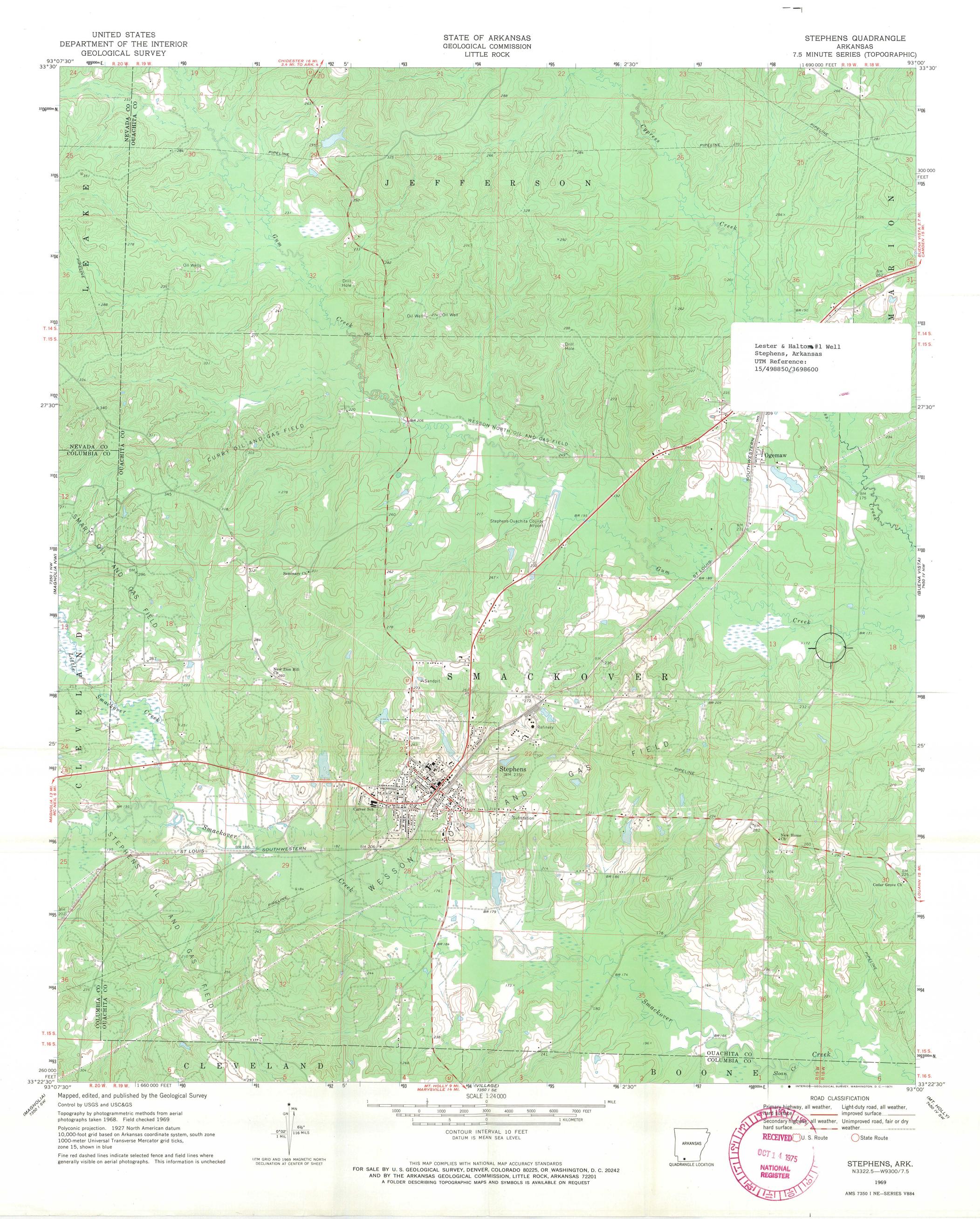
1:24000

DATE 1969

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES



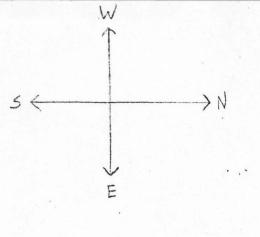
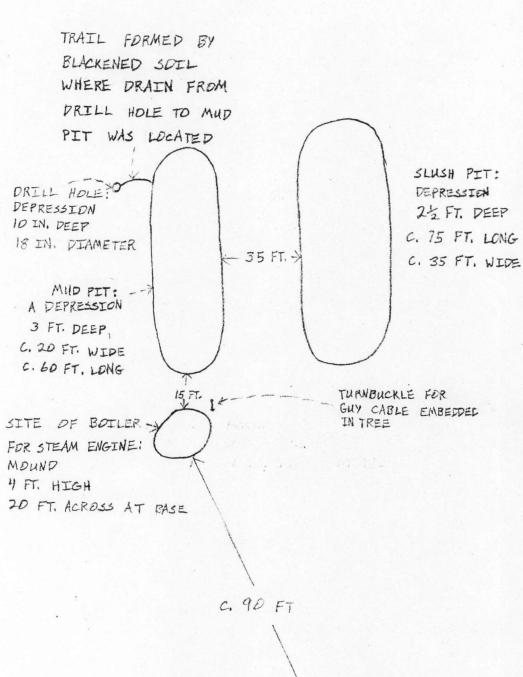


DIAGRAM OF SITE OF LESTER & HALTOM #1 WELL



RESERVOIR FOR WATER FOR BOTLER!
DEPRESSION
2 FT. DEEP
8 FT. DIAMETER



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered APR 3 1976

Name

Location

Lester & Haltom #1 Oil Well Site

Stephens Vicinity Ouachita County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan

Hon. Dale Bumpers

Hon. Ray Thornton, Jr.

Regional Director, Southwest Region

PR.:M Mott:coc 4/13/76

State Historic Preservation Officer

Ms. Anne Bartley

Acting Director

Department of Natural and Culture

Heritage

The Old State House

300 West Markham

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

-NATIONAL R	EGISTER	DATA	SHIER
NAME as it appears on federal register	2 MAR NAMES:	***	(3) date of entry: (4) county code:
Lester & Haltom No. 1 Well Site	Hunter No.1 Well	1 - 300	4-3-76 103
5 LOCATION street & number city /	town vicinity of	skate	county 6NPS REGION:
NE of Stephens on Old Wire Rd.	Stephens	AR Ouac	hita Southwest
OWNER PRIVATE DISTATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (age	ency name)	8	ADMINISTRATOR:
DEXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER HALL TO FUNDED? THE HAD			TATE FEDERAL
	ATTOWAL HISTORIC LANGUARK?	GRO ACREADE	if state who prepared form?
□YES, WARRE □ YES, W			LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION
	original site (7) features: _ USUB	STANTIALLY INTACT-1 CUBS	TANTIALLY INTACT-2 2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
	moved SONOT	I INTACT-O	INTACT-O SONOT INTACT-O
	inknown E UNI	KNOWN-4 #OUNK	NOWN-5 SOUNKNOWN-6
□fair □unexcavated □excavated	≧ not	T APPLICABLE-7 MO NOT	APPLICABLE-8 NOT APPLICABLE-9
ACCESS YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access	Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE TES OND	SAVED? TYES IS	PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : DENGINEERING - 11	LANDSCAPE ARCH 15 POLITICS / GOVT 21	RECREATION -28	CLAIMS: explain
	□ LAW - 16 □ RELIGION - 22	SETTLEMENT-29	'first' x discovery of oil in AR
	□ LITERATURE - 17 □ SCIENCE- 23	- HEREN EL SHILLING SI	
	☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		'oldest'□
	MUSIC-19 D SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30		
	☐ PHILOSOPHY - 20 ☐ TRANSPORTATION - %		'only' □
0	Quetas district	1	O ETHINIC PROVID
WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: Weishral, commercial CURRENTLY:	dates of initial construction major alterations: historic events:	1920	SETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION
CURRENTLY: NONG architectural style(s):	marchitect:	master builder:	engineer:
arentecturar styre(s).	8	Minaster Duriter.	angineer.
andscape architect/garden designer: interior dec	corator: artist:	artisan:	builder/contractor:
NAMES give role & date PERSONAL:			
EVENTS:			
INSTITUTIONAL:			
MATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP			
Site of first discovery of oil in State on Apri habitation structures; signifies beginning of r	1 14; remnants of oil derrick apid industrialization in Sta	k, cables, trails, ate. Unexcavated.	and associated