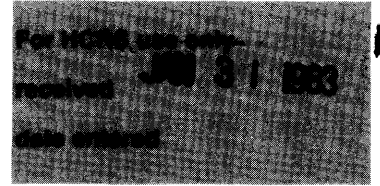


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



## 1. Name

historic Wheeler No. 1 Oil Well

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number off OK 99 NA not for publication

city, town Drumright vic,  vicinity of congressional district No. 2

state Oklahoma code 40 county Creek code 037

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name General American Oil Company (own both surface and mineral rights)

street & number North of city

city, town Drumright  vicinity of state Oklahoma

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number Creek County Courthouse

city, town Sapulpa state Oklahoma

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cushing Historic Oil Field Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society - State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

Wheeler No. 1 was originally drilled to a depth of 2,319 to 2,347 feet. The well was sunk on the west slope of the Drumright Dome (syncline). The west slope of the syncline is gentle as compared to the northern, eastern, and southern slopes being about 75 feet to the mile. Original production for Wheeler No. 1 well came from the sand layer which became known as the Wheeler zone because most of the petroleum during the first two years of production in the Cushing field came from that 75' layer.

The original engine for the pumper on Wheeler No. 1 was a two-cylinder gas powered model. The engine drove a pulley which was connected to a shaft in the gear box which in turn rotated a second shaft which forced the pumper arms to move, or simply an indirect drive process. The pumper arms drove the rods into the well. The oil was then brought to the surface by putting a suction, done by the pumping action, on the vacuum formed in the well. The electric engine now used on the well functions in the same manner except that electrical impulse is used to drive the shaft instead of internal combustion.

Wheeler No. 1 presently pumps about four hours a day and produces one barrel in that time period. It produces from three different zones--Wheeler, the original layer, Layton, and Bartlesville. The Layton layer is approximately 1,700 feet below the surface, the Wheeler is about 2,300 feet deep, and the Bartlesville layer is 2,700 feet down.

Today, a secondary recovery method is used at Wheeler No. 1 well. The process is known as "cracking the well" where some substance such as sulphuric acid or sand is used to break down the mineral deposits that have developed which ruin the porosity of the sand through which the oil flows. Wheeler No. 1 has been sand-fractured. The sand is forced under high pressure to "crack" the mineral buildup.

Wheeler No. 1 is currently connected to a separating unit (one-half mile east) by a 2" pipeline. The separating unit separates the oil from the water and then the oil is piped to storage tanks where Kerr-McGee purchases the oil from General American Company which presently owns Wheeler No. 1 well.

Wheeler No. 1 well is located on a winding dirt road approximately 1,060 feet west-southwest of North Smather Street, Drumright, Oklahoma. It is situated in a clearing approximately 100' x 100' surrounded by trees and brush.

## 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1912 - present      **Builder/Architect** Charles B. Shaffer

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Wheeler No. 1 oil well is significant because it was the first well drilled in the Cushing oil field of Oklahoma. Because of the total output of the Cushing field, Oklahoma led the nation in total production of crude oil from 1915 through 1917. In 1915, the Cushing field produced more than two-thirds of the high grade refinable crude oil then being produced in all of North and South America.

In 1911, Charles B. Shaffer, a Chicago Financier, sent Thomas B. Slick, a young associate, to Oklahoma to acquire oil leases in the old Creek Indian Nation. After three unsuccessful drilling attempts, Slick drilled a fourth well on the Frank Wheeler farm, one mile north of present-day Drumright. After much secrecy, Slick and his drilling crew made public their well log which indicated Wheeler No. 1 was producing 400 barrels daily of high grade crude oil, a statistic which classified the well as a "gusher" in oil field vocabulary. Wheeler No. 1 continued to yield crude oil in a natural flow, without undue gas pressure, which had to be channeled to open earth storage pits because there were no pipelines or storage tank facilities.

The discovery of the new well stimulated lease buyers and oil speculators from throughout the United States to rush to the Wheeler farm site and the Cushing oil field was opened.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Lloyd, Heather M., "Oklahoma's Cushing Field," M.A. thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1976.  
Tulsa World, March 24, 28, 29, April 2, 3, 4, 1912.  
 (continued)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Oilton, OK.

UMT References

Quadrangle scale 7.5"

A	<u>1</u> <u>14</u>	<u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>16</u> <u>5</u> <u>18</u> <u>10</u>	<u>3</u> <u>19</u> <u>8</u> <u>16</u> <u>3</u> <u>16</u> <u>10</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point approximately 530' south of the center of Oklahoma Highway No. 99 Bypass and approximately 1,060' west of the center of North Smather Street, Drumright, Oklahoma, proceed east approximately 100' to the edge of timber, then proceed north (con

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

state	code	county	code
<u>N/A</u>			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. George O. Carney, Associate Professor of Geography

organization Cushing Historic Oil Field Survey date 7/1980

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405-624-6248 <sup>6250</sup>

city or town Stillwater 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 C. M. Metcalf date 2-8-82

title

For NCRS use only

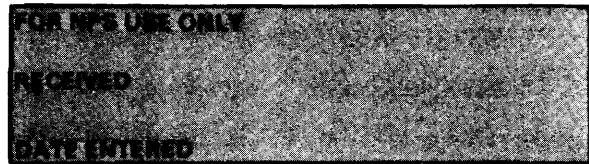
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 3/14/83

date 3/14/83

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET Major Biblio-      ITEM NUMBER 9      PAGE 2  
graphical References

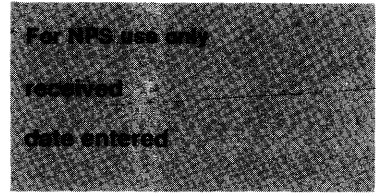
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Interview with Tom Spradlin, Oilton, Oklahoma, Jan., 1980.

Forbes, Charles, G., "The Origin and Early Development of the Oil Industry  
in Oklahoma, Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Oklahoma, 1939.

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

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



Continuation sheet Wheeler No. 1 Well

Item number 10

Page 1

Additional map documentation source is:

Phillips Petroleum Company Map  
Bartlesville, Oklahoma  
Map Date is October 8, 1931  
Oilton District of Cushing Oil Field

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

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Verbal Description continued:

approximately 100' to the northwest corner of the nominated property.  
Turn west and proceed approximately 100', then south approximately 100'  
to point of origin.