NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1435

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name J. T. Murphy No. 1 Crater

other names/site number Murphy Crater / Site # UN0349

2. Location

street & number Firetower Road, ¾ Mile north of jct. w. Baugh Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Norphlet ☒ vicinity

state Arkansas Code AR county Union code 139 zip code 71759

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathie Matthews 11/29/07

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

for Edson H. Beall — Signature of the Keeper

1-24-08 — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☒ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/Extractive Facility/Oil Well
AGRICULTURE/Agricultural Field

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/Unoccupied Land

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
other Earth

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Summary

The J. T. Murphy No. 1 Crater is the site of an oil drilling accident in May 1922. In the process of drilling a new oil well, the drilling crew from the Oil Operator's Trust unexpectedly hit a large pocket of natural gas. Immediately the well blew out and the derrick was destroyed. It caught fire, and though the fire lasted only a mater of hours, the well continued to erupt over a period of several weeks forming a very large crater.

Elaboration

On the evening of 14 May 1922, the Oil Operator's Trust Company completed their J. T. Murphy No. 1 well in the Nacotoch sand formation. The well was drilled to a bottom depth of approximately 2,024 feet. Initial production from the well was only natural gas and was estimated to be thirty million cubic feet per day. The enormous amount of natural gas began to escape around the drill collar, forming smaller craters adjacent to the rapidly growing main crater. The well caught fire on the 15th and burned for several hours. Violent eruptions of natural gas lasted for several weeks. The main crater grew to be over 450 feet in diameter and more than 50 feet deep. Smaller craters dotted the landscape toward the north and west.

The crater is located in an area of pine forest approximately 3 miles north and west of the town of Norphlet. Murphy Crater sits on the north side of a low north-south ridge, very near the wide drainage basin of Smackover Creek. When the well was drilled, much of the area now in the crater was used as a cotton field. After the blow-out in the spring of 1922 the land surrounding the area was largely abandoned. Much of the farm land reverted to forest and has been sporadically logged. The land in the immediate vicinity, and surrounding area, continued to be explored for oil and is still a significant oil production region today.

Integrity

Land subsidence has caused the smaller craters to the north and west to combine into one very large, oblong crater. The original crater is approximately the same diameter, 450 feet, with some filling in of the crater on the north and west sides. On the east side is a pool of water of unknown depth where oil continues to rise to the surface. Overall the crater retains good integrity. The Union County government maintains a fence around the property and periodically mows and removes garbage.

It should be noted that this was not the first crater of this type in the area. The Constantine Oil and Refining Company, Hill No. 1 oil well blew in April 22, 1920 near El Dorado with an initial production of forty million cubic feet of gas per day. The well was improperly lined for such a high rate of flow and the gas soon formed a large crater. On June 13, 1920 a sightseer lit a cigar igniting the gas in the crater killing five, many of them young children. The fire burned out of control for months. Once it was brought under control the associated craters were filled and the exact location is now unknown.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B**. removed from its original location.

☐ **C**. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)
State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Industry

Period of Significance
1922

Significant Dates
1922

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder
N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☒ Other State Agency
☐ Federal Agency
☐ Local Government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:
Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources

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National Park Service

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Summary

The J. T. Murphy No. 1 Crater is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **state significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the history of oil and gas production in the state of Arkansas.

Elaboration

Historian Brian Black writes in his book, *Petrolia: The Landscape of America's First Oil Boom*, that the landscape of Pennsylvania's Oil Creek valley became the first sacrificial landscape in America's industrial history.[1] The drive for oil and for economic gain relegated any respect for nature to inconsequential status. As Black notes, "the pollution and waste considered base elsewhere were signs of progress here."[2] What began in Pennsylvania in 1859 continued to be a hallmark of industrial activity throughout the last half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. In fact, it would define the early years of oil production in Arkansas.

The discovery of oil in Pennsylvania in 1859 began an almost frenetic search for oil that continues to this day. Oil, or rock oil, was not an unknown substance, however its uses were not highly explored as there was no demand. It is demand for a type of product that leads to exploration for alternatives to that product. This process is called commodification. The commodification of oil began well before its discovery in 1859. The high cost of whale oil led to exploration of alternate lighting fuels. As early as 1830, Isaiah Jennings patented camphene, a distillation of turpentine. Through the 1840s and into the early 1850s experiments in coal distillation and in petroleum distillation led to the discovery of kerosene. In the two years leading up to the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania, experiments with oil showed that it could be distilled and used for lighting oil.[3]

Edwin Drake's discovery of oil in Pennsylvania in 1859 made a common resource a commodity. Oil was now something to be bought and sold, highly demanded, and yet, in those early years, little used. Through the 1860s and 1870s scientists sought to find uses for petroleum. Gasoline was discovered in 1863, and oil's use as a lubricant was found soon after its discovery.[4] The people of Titusville were amazed at Drake's discovery and a bit surprised that anyone would drill for oil. These first wells intrigued Americans. The mystery of the process, the gamble of location, and the uncertainty of success thrilled the populace. Combine immense fortune with the possibility of great danger and the excitement became palpable.

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[1] Brian Black, *Petrolia: The Landscape of America's First Oil Boom* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000).
[2] Ibid., 62.
[3] Ibid., 20-1. Interestingly, the earliest uses of crude oil were for cure-alls and medicines.
[4] Ibid., 35.

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The first wells drilled in Pennsylvania's new oil field were very shallow wells with low production. The majority were placed on the pump—an oil field term denoting the need for a pumping mechanism to achieve production—immediately after completion. Oil was interesting to the American people, but it still was not produced in significant enough amounts to create a true market or satisfy demand. That changed in April 1861 with the re-completion of Henry Rouse's well. Rouse decided that production from his well in Pennsylvania was not sufficient and undertook to reenter the well. His re-completed well hit a natural gas pocket at 300 feet and the well began producing an estimated 3,000 barrels per day. Unfortunately, Rouse was soon after killed when, because of the inability to deal with a gushing well, the well caught fire.[5]

Rouse's well soon led to new exploration at deeper levels and new discoveries led to oil in volumes never before dreamed. Discoveries like the Fountain Well and the Empire Well, both producers of more than 1,000 barrels per day, proved that the oil supply was there to develop a market.[6] By 1880, the United States was exporting half of its oil production in the form of kerosene overseas; one fourth of all American exports.[7] Though production of oil overseas was increasing, the high demand continued to drive production. This was a period of highly volatile markets with the price of a barrel fluctuating wildly.

Nevertheless, oil fields were soon discovered in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Kansas, Texas, California, and Colorado. With the discovery of the Los Angeles Field in the 1890s, California became the 6th largest oil producing state. Kansas and Texas both joined the list of producing states in 1890, but it was a well in Texas that most dramatically changed the petroleum industry in the United States.[8] Anthony F. Lucas's well on Gladys City Oil, Gas, and Manufacturing Company land just south of Beaumont, Texas erupted on January 10, 1901. The force threw over 1,000 feet of drill pipe from the ground and shot oil over 100 feet above the derrick. When capped nine days later, the flow of Lucas's Spindletop well was estimated at 100,000 barrels per day. Kerosene was no longer the largest petroleum export. The discovery at Spindletop made the United States an exporter of crude oil.[9]

The Lucas well and Spindletop's place in history is well documented but the discovery of previously unimaginable oil resources in Texas provided further impetus to petroleum exploration. This exploration was largely led by surface geology; that is to say that comparisons between geological features on the surface guided explorations. Inevitably this led to exploration in Arkansas.

[5] Ibid., 51, 62, 63.
[6] Ibid., 51.
[7] Matthew Yeomans, *Oil: Anatomy of an Industry* (New York: The New Press, 2004), 5.
[8] Oil and Gas Journal, "Petroleum Panorama, 1859-1959," *Oil and Gas Journal* 57, no. 5 (January 28, 1959); A-12, A-13.
[9] Ibid., A-22, A-23.

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Exploration for oil and natural gas in Arkansas began as early as 1887 when the Choctaw Oil & Gas Company drilled a gas well near I and North 16th Streets in Fort Smith. Between 1889 and 1902 the company continued drilling for natural gas in both Fort Smith and near Mansfield. Few of these wells were commercially viable and none produced oil. In fact, it was not until 1920 that oil was discovered in Arkansas.[10]

The discovery of oil in north Louisiana drove exploration in south Arkansas in the early twentieth century. The first documented exploration in Union County was the Penn-Wyoming Oil Company's attempt ten miles southwest of El Dorado. The well was a dry hole. Again in 1916 another attempt was made by prominent citizens of El Dorado; this also resulted in a dry hole.[11] Finally on April 14, 1920, Samuel S. Hunter, of the Hunter Oil Company, brought in his Lester & Haltom #1 well. The well, two and one-half miles east of Stephens, was Arkansas's first oil well. The well was never commercially profitable, producing only 70 to 100 barrels per day for no more than a few months; yet, the Lester & Haltom proved there was oil in South Arkansas.[12]

The major discovery of oil in Arkansas was the Busey-Mitchell No. 1, also referred to as the Busey No. 1. Completed on January 10, 1921, the well erupted to life at about 4:30 in the afternoon. Crude oil shot well above the top of the derrick and rained down on the agricultural field just south of El Dorado. The well had an initial production of between 3,000 and 10,000 barrels of oil per day and 15 million and 30 million cubic feet of gas. A special train from Shreveport, LA, arrived on the morning of the 11th. On January 12, there were five special trains from Little Rock to El Dorado. Within weeks, the population of El Dorado, previously listed at 4,000, grew to over 15,000.[13]

The growth of the field was incredible. Only five months later there were one hundred wells complete and construction of another 340 derricks was underway.[14] Not knowing how large the field might be, independent oil producers radiated from El Dorado, drilling wells in previously unheard of towns like Norphlet and Smackover. Little did they know, they were on the edge of Arkansas's largest oil field.

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[10] George C. Branner, *List of Arkansas Oil and Gas Wells*, Information Circular 10 (Little Rock: Arkansas Geological Survey, 1937), 8.

[11] Kenny A. Franks and Paul F. Lambert, *Early Louisiana and Arkansas Oil: A Photographic History, 1901-1946* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1982), 107. Also A. R. Bucklew and R. B. Bucklew, "The Discovery of Oil in South Arkansas, 1920-1924," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* XXXIII, no. 3 (Autumn 1974): 196.

[12] Jack Doss, "Lester & Haltom # 1 Well Site" (April 1976). National Register of Historic Places nomination, copy on file Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock.

[13] Bucklew, 204, 205; Franks, 108. Many people refer to this as the Discovery Well of the El Dorado oil field. The Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission considers the Constantine Oil and Refining Company, Constantine No. 1 well of 1920 to be the discovery well of the South El Dorado Oil Field. See, George H. Francher and Donald K. Mackay, *Secondary Recovery of Petroleum in Arkansas—A Survey* (El Dorado: Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission, 1946), 129.

[14] Franks, 109.

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Nineteen twenty-one saw the completion of 558 oil wells in South Arkansas. These wells produced 10,473,000 barrels of oil, with a value of $12,746,000 dollars.[15] In the spring of 1922 the Oil Operator's Trust Company leased a small farm north and west of Norphlet intending to explore for oil. On May 14, the company completed its J. T. Murphy No. 1 well. According to oral tradition, at about 8:00 pm the roughnecks heard a rumbling sound and felt the ground shaking. They ran from the derrick as the well roared to life. Approximately 2,024 feet deep, the drillers punched through the top of the Norphlet dome. Unknown to anyone prior to this point, the Norphlet dome was a geological uplift that held immense reserves of natural gas.[16]

Drilling crews working on up to a quarter mile away claimed they had to plug their ears; the roar of the gas was so great. By the 15th of May the derrick had been completely destroyed (See Figure 1). The escaping gas quickly broke out around the drill casing and began to crater. On the evening of the 15th the escaping gas caught fire and the well burned through the night and into the next day (See Figures 2 & 3). The Oil Operator's Trust lost their derrick, boiler, and drilling equipment into the growing crater. The flow of gas was estimated at thirty million cubic feet per day with a pressure estimated to be 950 pounds. Through the day of the 16th additional craters opened nearby as the gas looked for additional outlets. The fire burned itself out but the well continued violently erupting, throwing pulverized shale and red clay high into the air (See Figure 4).[17]

The crater became a destination as it continued to catch fire, burn itself out, and violently erupt. As one witness stated, "when I first saw this crater…I thought the devil was coming. I thought the Lord was trying to tell us something in a big way. It was just bubbling and carrying on terrible."[18] An experienced oil man who visited the site remembered, "It was just like a…I'd say like a big pot a-boiling with water or something in it. Every once in awhile it'd make a head and it'd shoot up maybe fifty or a hundred feet high."[19] The well grew to approximately 450 feet in diameter and up to seventy-five feet deep. Visitors remember seeing the boiler spinning like a top in the hole. It is said that refreshment stands were set up to cater to the visitors.[20]

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[15] Branner, 2.
[16] Francher, 80; Franks, 123; Bucklew, 218.
[17] Ibid. Also Clara Ayers, oral history interview with Feaster Taylor on October 9, 1987, El Dorado, AR. Copy on file at the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources; Smackover, AR.
[18] Gary Hacking, oral history interview with Pauline Chambers on October 16, 1984, Smackover, AR. Copy on file at the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources; Smackover, AR.
[19] Calvin Smith, oral history interview with W. T. "Dad" Warren on April 10, 1980, Smackover, AR. Copy on file at the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources; Smackover, AR.
[20] Franks, 124.

Though a spectacular failure, for a producing well, the eruption of the J. T. Murphy No. 1 showed great possibility for the presence of oil. Drilling to the north of the Murphy No. 1, the V.K.F. Oil Company brought in their Richardson No. 1 on July 1, 1922. The well was drilled to a depth of 2,066 feet and had an initial production of 300 barrels per day.[21] This well became the first producing well of the Smackover oil field. Throughout 1922 and 1923 the newly discovered Smackover oil field continued to produce at record setting levels. Wells like the Noe Oil and Gas Company, Workman No. 1 and the Vitek Oil Company, Stringfellow No. 1 produced 35,000 and 40,000 barrels of oil a day, respectively.[22]

Production like this could not be ignored, and independent oil producers as well as the large companies quickly arrived in Smackover to develop the field. The little town that had a few more than 100 residents in 1921 had 2,000 by October of 1922 and 5,000 by November.[23] The Smackover oil field became the largest producing oil field in the state covering more than 40 square miles. Its peak production was reached in 1925 when 69,000,000 barrels of oil were pumped from the ground.[24] The Smackover field now counts as a giant oil field, one which has produced more than 100 million barrels. As of January 1, 1995, the Smackover field produced 569,974,000 barrels of crude oil.[25]

Oil production remains an important aspect of the economy and culture of South Arkansas. Current high prices of oil have renewed interest in the Smackover oil field and new drilling occurs every day. Yet, it is landscape features like the crater that speak directly to the history of the oil field. The tremendous waste of natural gas in the Smackover oil field from wells like the Murphy No. 1, combined with other ecological disasters, led to the creation of the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission in 1939.[26] Abandoned wells get plugged, covered, and the land returns to nature. The location of the Busey No. 1—Arkansas' first commercially productive well—is lost to urban growth. Though some may consider them scars, landscape features such as the J. T. Murphy No. 1 Crater stand in silent, lasting testimony to the history of oil production in Arkansas.

Summary

The J. T. Murphy No. 1 Crater is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **state significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the history of oil and gas production in the state of Arkansas as the discovery well of the Smackover oil field.

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[21] Franks, 124; Branner, 80.
[22] Franks, 133, 138.
[23] Bucklew, 222.
[24] Branner, 80, 81.
[25] Arkansas Geological Survey, "Petroleum" available online at www.state.ar.us/agc/petroleu.htm, accessed 22 October 2007.
[26] Franks, 126.

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Figure 1: The Oil Operator's Trust, Murphy No. 1 on the 15th of May. The great rush of escaping natural gas can be clearly seen at the destroyed derrick. Escaping gas also opened smaller craters nearby. *Courtesy the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources (1996-041-0016).*

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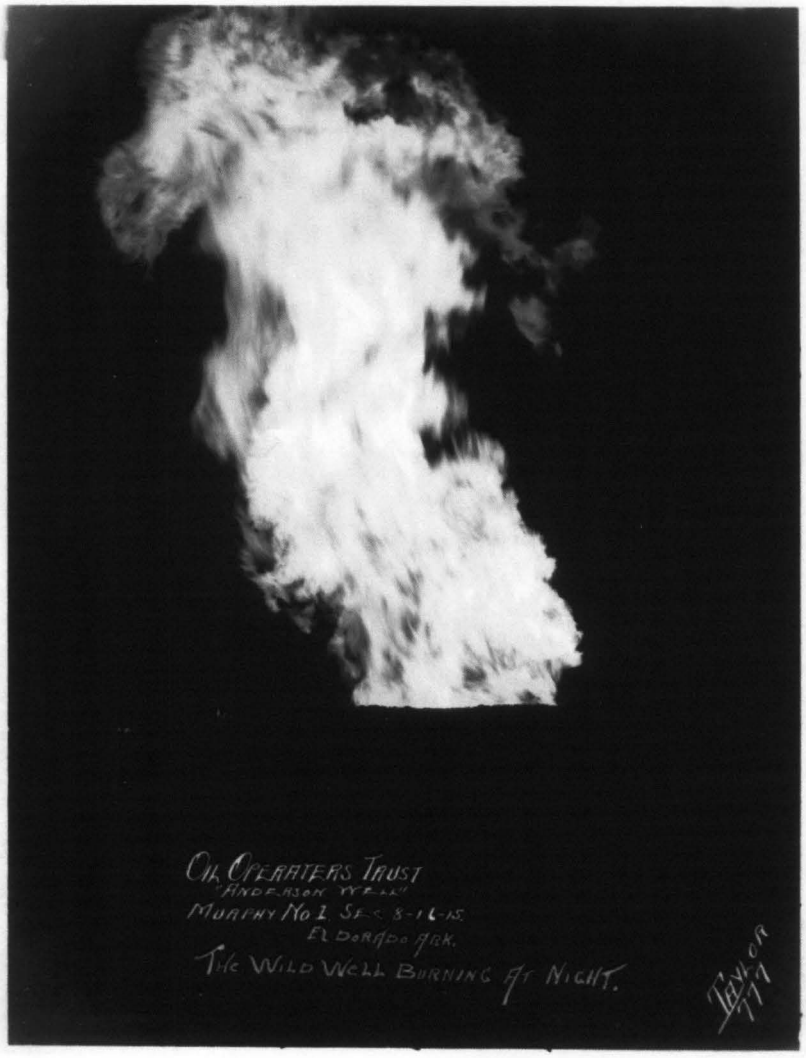

Figure 2: Photograph of the J. T. Murphy No. 1 on fire. Oral history holds that the fires burned so brightly that a person could read the newspaper. *Courtesy the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources (1996-041-0007).*

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Figure 3: A photograph of the J. T. Murphy No. 1 well showing clearly the former cotton field. The well continued to burn sporadically. Soil ejected from the well rained down several miles away. *Courtesy the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources (1996-041-0010).*

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Figure 4: After the fire ceased the well continued to erupt for several weeks. It quickly became a tourist spot both exciting and frightening visitors. *Courtesy Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources (1996-052-0001).*

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Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Ayers, Clara. Oral history interview with Feaster Taylor on October 9, 1987, El Dorado, AR. Copy on file at the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources; Smackover, AR.

Black, Brian. *Petrolia: The Landscape of America's First Oil Boom.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.

Branner, George C. *List of Arkansas Oil and Gas Wells*, Information Circular 10. Little Rock: Arkansas Geological Survey, 1937.

Bucklew, A. R. and R. B. Bucklew. "The Discovery of Oil in South Arkansas, 1920-1924." *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* XXXIII, no. 3 (Autumn 1974): 195-238.

Doss, Jack. "Lester & Haltom # 1 Well Site" (April 1976). National Register of Historic Places nomination, copy on file Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock.

Francher George H. and Donald K. Mackay. *Secondary Recovery of Petroleum in Arkansas—A Survey.* El Dorado: Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission, 1946.

Franks, Kenny A. and Paul F. Lambert. *Early Louisiana and Arkansas Oil: A Photographic History, 1901-1946.* College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1982.

Hacking, Gary. Oral history interview with Pauline Chambers on October 16, 1984, Smackover, AR. Copy on file at the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources; Smackover, AR.

Oil and Gas Journal. "Petroleum Panorama, 1859-1959." *Oil and Gas Journal* 57, no. 5 (January 28, 1959).

Smith, Calvin. Oral history interview with W. T. "Dad" Warren on April 10, 1980, Smackover, AR. Copy on file at the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources; Smackover, AR.

Yeomans, Matthew. *Oil: Anatomy of an Industry.* New York: The New Press, 2004.

J. T. Murphy No. 1 Crater
Name of Property

Union County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.5 Acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	530853	3689276	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Van Zbinden, National Register Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 1 October 2007
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501.324.9880
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Union County, Judge Bobby Edmonds
street & number 101 North Washington telephone 870.864.1900
city or town El Dorado state AR zip code 71730

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Verbal Boundary of Description

Beginning at a point at 33° 20' 29" North and 92° 40'07"West heading west for 310 feet. Thence north 300 feet to a point at 33° 20' 33" North by 92° 40'04" West. Thence north and west 450 feet to a point at 33° 20' 35". From that point 430 feet west and south to a point at 33° 20' 34" North by 92° 40' 13" West. Thence south and west to a point at 33° 20' 32" North by 92° 40' 14" West. Thence south and east 156 feet to a point at 33° 20' 31" North by 92° 40'13" West. From that point 228 feet to a point at 33° 20'31" North and 92° 40'09" West. Thence south and east 171 feet to a point at 33° 20'29" North by 92° 40'08" West. Thence approximately 100 feet to the beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all of the land historically associated with the J. T. Murphy No. 1 Crater.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Murphy, J.T., No 1 Crater

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Union

DATE RECEIVED: 12/11/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/03/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/18/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/24/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07001435

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___✓___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 1.24.08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA_____

REVIEWER_____ DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

1. J.T. Murphy No. 1 Crater
2. Union County, AR
3. Van Zbinden
4. Sept. 2007
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. North Rim, looking North
7. # 1

1. J.T. Murphy No. 1 Crater
2. Union County, AR
3. Van Zbinden
4. Sept. 2007
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. West Rim and west subsidence crater, looking West
7. #2

1. J.T. Murphy No. 1 Crater
2. Union County, AR
3. Van Zbinden
4. Sept. 2007
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. North Rim, looking North
7. #3

1. J. T. Murphy No. 1 Crater
2. Union County, AR
3. Van Zbinden
4. Sept. 2007
5 Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. East and South Rim of crater looking South
7. #4

1. J. T. Murphy No. 1 Crater
2. Union County, AR
3. Van Zbinden
4. Sept. 2007
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. East Rim of Crater looking Northwest
7. #5

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SMACKOVER QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 SMACKOVER 15' QUADRANGLE

7450 IV NE (LOUANN)
7450 I NE (SMACKOVER NE)
7450 IV SE (LISBON)
7450 I SE (CALION)
7450 II NW (SNOW HILL)
(NEWELL) 7450 III NE
(EL DORADO WEST) 7450 II NW
(EL DORADO EAST) 7450 II NE

92°45′ 33°22′30″ 524 000m E. 525 42′30″ R. 16 W. R. 15 W. 530 40′ 1 800 000 FEET 534 000m E. 92°37′30″ 33°22′30″

CROSS ROADS 3.4 MI.
SNOW HILL 1 MI.
CAMDEN 18 MI.
LOUANN 2.9 MI.
MOUNT HOLLY 14 MI.
LISBON 6 MI.
LISBON 4.9 MI.
DORAS CITY 10.3 MI.
2.8 MI. TO U.S. 167
QUINN 0.6 MI.
HAMPTON 21 MI.
EL DORADO (C.H.) 5 MI.
3 MI. TO U.S. 82
EL DORADO (C.H.) 2.8 MI.
EL DORADO (U.S. 82) 3.6 MI.
JUNCTION CITY 19 MI.

T. 15 S. T. 16 S. T. 17 S.

Smackover
Wells
Sewage Disposal Pond
Park
Oil Refinery
Water Tank
WT
Cem
Smackover Training Sch
BM 184
Kenova
Standard Umpstead
Joyce City
BM 121
BM 96
BM 104
BM 207
Lookout Tower
Hicks Cem
Sandy Land
Missionary Ch
New Providence Ch
Old Harmony Ch
Smith Sch
Mt Zion Ch
Norphlet
BM 169
BM 160
BM 120
Oil Refinery
Sycamore Grove Ch Cem
BM 177
Rehoboth Ch
Rest Haven Memorial Gardens
Trailer Park
Memorial Ch
CHEMICAL PLANT
Substation
TANK FARM
Northside Chapel
Picnic Area
Radio Tower
Ebenezer Ch
Ebenezer Cem
Oil Well

QUACHITA CO
UNION CO
Smackover Creek
Holmes Creek
MISSOURI PACIFIC
SMACKOVER OIL AND GAS FIELD
CORPORATE BOUNDARY

J.T. MURPHY No 1
CRATER
NORPLET VIC.,
UNION Co., AR
UTM REFERENCE:
15/530853/3689276

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1962

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines visible on aerial photography. This information is unchecked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 10 meters south and 15 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1984 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1985

UTM GRID AND 1985 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
MN GN 0°10′ 3 MILS 5° 89 MILS

SCALE 1:24 000
1 0 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 5 0 1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ARKANSAS
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route — State Route

SMACKOVER, ARK.
SW/4 SMACKOVER 15′ QUADRANGLE
33092-C6-TF-024

1962
PHOTOREVISED 1985
DMA 7450 I SW—SERIES V884

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1986

RECEIVED 2280
DEC 11 2007
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

December 6, 2007

The Department of
Arkansas Heritage

Mike Beebe
Governor

Cathie Matthews
Director

Arkansas Arts Council
*
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
*
Delta Cultural Center
*
Historic Arkansas Museum
*
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
*
Old State House Museum

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184
tdd: (501) 324-9811
e-mail:
info@arkansaspreservation.org
website:
www.arkansaspreservation.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Dr. Janet Matthews
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: J. T. Murphy No. 1 Crater; Norphlet, Union County

Dear Dr. Matthews,

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Van Zbinden of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:vz

Enclosure