

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

For NPS use only

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

received **AUG 16 1985**

date entered **SEP 26 1985**

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

1. Name

historic Healdton Oil Field Bunk House (one (1) contributing property)

and/or common Hales Oil Interest Office

2. Location

street & number N/A not for publication

city, town Wilson vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Carter code 019

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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> 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 Hales Oil Interests

street & number 725 Oklahoma Mortgage Tower, 5100 North Brookline

city, town Oklahoma City N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 73112

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Carter County Courthouse

city, town Ardmore state Oklahoma 73401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office—OK Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

7. Description

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

Located near Wilson, the Hales Oil Interest Office is a 25' x 75' rectangular 1 story commercial building. It has a pier and beam system of support with the base of the frame set upon concrete masonry piers. The exterior is finished with board and batten and up to 2½' high sheets of corrugated metal surrounding the base of the building. The roof is of the low pitch gable style, with a ridge vent. Both roof and vent is covered with corrugated iron.

The facade of the building has a plain flush door approximately 2½' wide and 6' high. On either side of the door is a sash window with 4/1 lights. Plain board trim encloses the window and a plain timber sill is at the base of the window. A 15' wide partial porch front with a plain sheet metal roof is attached to the facade of the building. Twenty-one pieces of rough sawn lumber provide the porch's floor. The porch roof is independent of the main building and is supported by four columns, two located at the most distant front corners of the base and two located midway between the door and the hand railing which is placed on either side of four wooden steps leading to the porch.

The rear of the building has a single flush door of rough sawn wooden boards similar to the front door. It is located about 2½' from the ground surface to the left of "t-shaped" hole which provides access to the underside of the building.

The north side of the building has a metal track of approximately 20' in length which supports two sliding board and batten doors. Directly beneath these doors are seven railroad ties of various lengths which are attached to the building and function as a loading dock. A 1" x 4" section of wood is attached to the wall midway down the left side of the door and acts as a "stopper" to prevent the sliding door from running off its track. A 3' x 9' area located four feet to the right of the sliding doors is framed by two-inch plain board. Approximately 5½' to the right of this frame is a single light, fixed pane window with a plain board sill and trim. The vent above the roof has eight windows in each side. Two windows are covered with plywood, the others are open and are 2/2 lights with plain wood trim and sills. The main roof and vent roof have eave overhangs with exposed rafters.

The south side of the building has a system of sliding doors similar to that on the north side with the exception that this door slides to the right not left. One fixed pane 4/1 window is located 2' from the left front corner of the building. The trim and sill are of plain board. The windows are of the same style as those on the north side.

Various alterations have occurred over time including new roof materials and windows in the 1960s. In addition, several openings in the ridge vent have been covered with plywood and sliding door openings were made in the 1940s in the north and south walls to accommodate usage as a storage center for the Hales Oil Company.

However, the alterations have not destroyed the historic integrity. The structure still conveys its historical appearance.

Contributing Properties

One (1) contributing 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1923–1933	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Healdton/Hewitt Oil Field Bunkhouse is both historically and architecturally significant because: (1) it has continuously served the Hales Oil Company, one of the oldest independent operators in south central Oklahoma, for more than 60 years and (2) it is the best remaining oil field bunkhouse still intact in the Healdton/Hewitt Field of Oklahoma.

The Healdton/Hewitt Field was opened in 1913 and continued to be one of the major fields in Oklahoma through the 1920s. It became one of the largest single pools discovered in the state and helped Oklahoma become the leading crude oil producer during the World War I era and post-war period when automobiles became popular. Hales Oil Company, an independent producer, capitalized on the fact that Healdton/Hewitt was a "poor man's field", a phrase applied to petroleum fields where lease sizes were smaller, drilling costs were less expensive because oil was found at shallow depths and in thick sand-bearing formations, shorter periods of time were required to drill a well, and crude oil was of high quality. These factors made it possible for small, independent operators like Hales Oil to compete with larger companies.

The Hales Oil Bunkhouse was completed in 1923 to provide housing for workers on their lease site and served the company in that capacity until the mid-1930s when it was converted to office space for company personnel. Still owned by the Hales Oil interests, it has played a major role in the company's operations for more than 60 years.

The bunkhouse was constructed during the boom era when housing for oil field workers was at a premium. Nearby communities and companies were not prepared for the large influx of "boomchasers" who followed petroleum discoveries from field to field in the Mid-Continent region. Many workers pitched tents, camped on the ground, or secured lodging in local farm houses and barns. In the boomtowns, churches, schools, and businesses were converted into temporary hotels and boarding houses.

The nominated property was typical of the sleeping facilities erected on oil lease sites by petroleum companies. Commonly referred to as "flop houses" because workers could flop down for a short period of rest, the Hales bunkhouse was constructed to accommodate as many workers as possible. Normal pattern for bunkhouse use was workers sleeping in eight-hour shifts. A worker often climbed in bed still warm from the previous occupant and, when linen supplies were exhausted, a single blanket was all the bedding available.

The Hales bunkhouse was constructed with green milled lumber with board-and-batten siding, a common form of wall finish in oil field buildings. Hastily erected by local carpenters which used lumber shipped into the oil field by rail, the 1" x 12" boards were spliced with 1" x 4" boards to cover the cracks between the wider boards when they began to cure. Flooring for the Hales bunkhouse was double thickness of 2" x 12" boards and beaverboard was used to insulate walls of the interior.

Although the two front windows were replaced in the mid-1960s, the bunkhouse has retained its architectural integrity for over 60 years with the attached porch, board-and-batten siding, and roof vent remaining intact.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Personal Interview: Eugene Bolles, June, 1984.

Franks, Kenny, The Oklahoma Petroleum Industry. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980, pp. 79-88.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Healdton, OK

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	4	6	5	3	0	3	7	8	7	2	0	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

(Continuation sheet)

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 Mary Aue Supervised by Dr. George O. Carney

organization Department of Geography date October 1984

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405-624-6250

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma 74078

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature C. Emery date 7-30-85

title _____ date _____

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

William B. Bushong date 9/26/85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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

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received

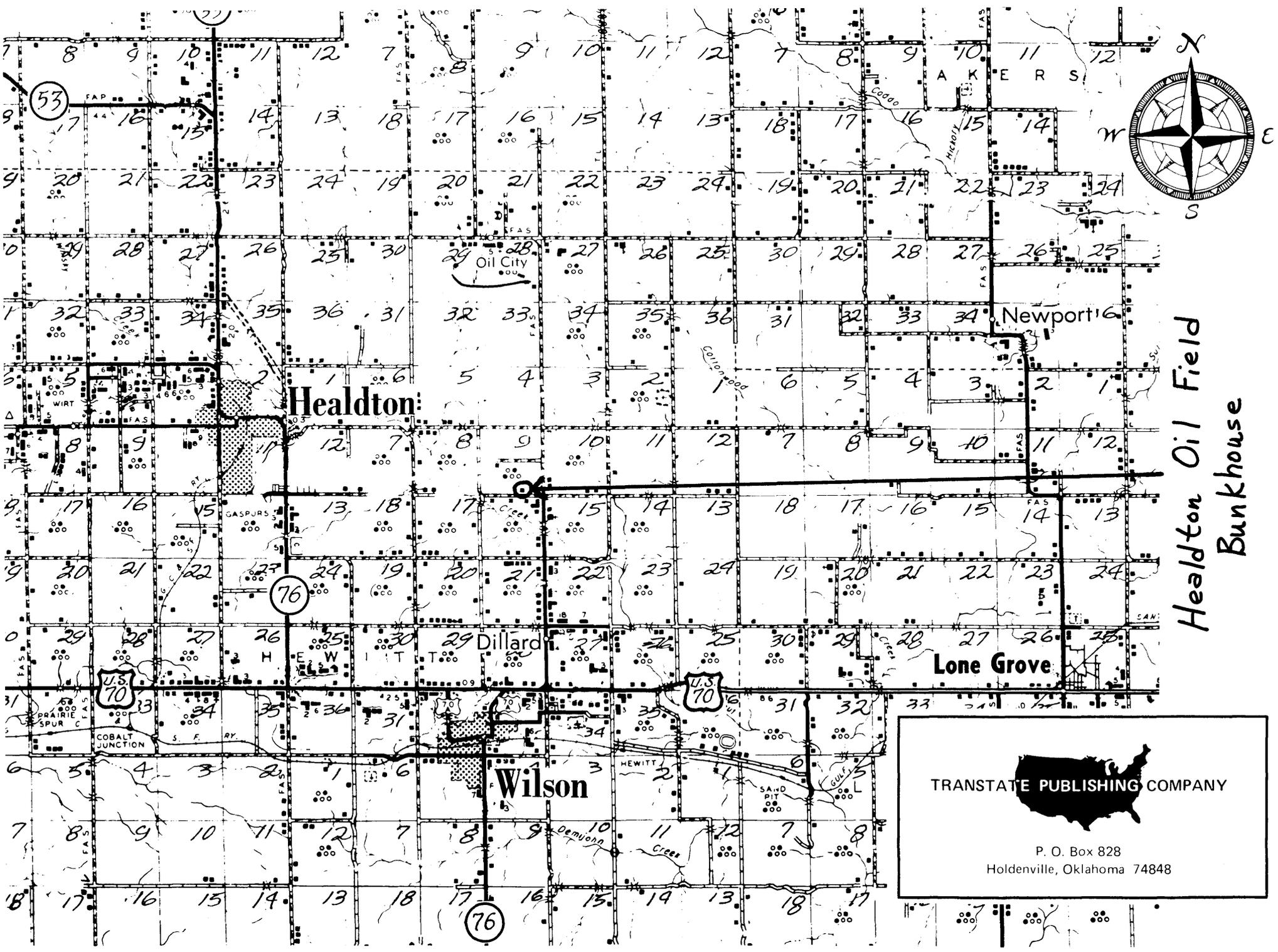
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

Beginning at a point 1403' West and 334' North of the southeast corner of Section 9, Township 4 South, Range 2 West, Carter County, proceed West 100', thence North 100', thence East 100', thence South 100' to the point of beginning (see attached Transtate Publishing Company map of Healdton and surrounding area).



Healdton Oil Field
Bunkhouse

TRANSTATE PUBLISHING COMPANY

P. O. Box 828
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