

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

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received **AUG 16 1985**
date entered **SEP 26 1985**

**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 Mijo Camp (Fifteen (15) contributing properties)

and or common

2. Location

street & number N/A not for publication

city, town Ada vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Pontotoc code 123

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</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 Mr. B. J. Robertson

street & number Route 2, Box 348

city, town Ada N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 74820

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Pontotoc County Courthouse

city, town Ada state Oklahoma 74820

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

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mijo Camp Industrial District is comprised of thirteen historically significant buildings and two historic structures. All buildings and structures are related to the history of the petroleum industry during the boom era of the Greater Seminole Oil Field which began in the early 1920s and continued through the early 1930s. The district encompasses approximately five acres in the eastern portion of the Bebee Pool of the Seminole Field. It is located along the north side of Pontotoc County Road #148 approximately one mile east of the community of Oil Center. The two houses, two garages, water tower, office, and nipple house face south, and are positioned near the county road, whereas the remaining properties are setback near the forest in the open clearing. The entrance to the camp is located between the office building and nipple house (see sketch map).

The land where the camp is located was originally leased by the B.A. Laselle Company, a drilling operation. Lease rights were sold to the Benjamin Trees Company of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1924, and this company constructed all the buildings and structures within the district. All properties were constructed in 1924 except the pumping unit and "doghouse" which were erected in 1928 at the time the Laselle No. 2 Mole well was drilled.

Because the Trees Company was a production operation, the Mijo Camp was a center for company employees, equipment, and record storage. The company houses were occupied by "pumpers," employees who serviced and checked well sites every 24 hours. The nearby garages provided storage for trucks used by the "pumpers" to travel to and from the well sites in the field each day. The office building was the primary storage center for company production records. Six of the seven remaining buildings served different functions related to servicing the wells including parts, supplies, and equipment. The "doghouse," located near the oil well, was a small, multipurpose shelter which served as a lunch room, change house, and storage for small tools and supplies.

The two structures, water tower and pumping unit, served quite different purposes. The water tower was the principal source of water for the camp and the pumping unit provided the power to bring oil to the surface from a well drilled to a depth of 2,600' in the Viola Lime formation. The pumping unit is driven by the original natural gas engine. Six of the buildings have clapboard wall finishes painted white. All are rectangularly shaped with the office building a "shotgun house" floor plan, i.e., it is twice as long as wide. The other seven buildings have corrugated metal siding. All buildings have either gable or shed roofs covered with either composition shingles or corrugated metal. The office and two dwellings have either attached or built-in porches. The water tower is approximately 30' high and is constructed of iron pipe with braces. The tank is redwood with iron rings.

All the buildings and structures retain the original character and design of the 1920s oil boom era as none of them have been significantly altered. The only changes during their 60 year history is a 14' x 16' corrugated metal addition to the nipple house completed in the 1930s. The two houses and garage are in need of paint. The water tower is the only property no longer used in the district. The remaining properties are still used in the same manner for which they were constructed. The houses are still occupied by pumpers who now are employed by the Center Oil Company and the garages are currently used for employee trucks. The remaining buildings currently house a variety of tools, parts, equipment, and records used by the Center Oil Company employees. The pumping unit continues to operate over the Laselle No. 2 Mole oil well which produces about 2-3 barrels of crude oil per day.

There are no intrusions in the district.

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Buildings and Structures Contributing to the Character of the District:

1. Company House #1 (1924): 25' x 40' of white clapboard finish, gable roof with composition shingles, attached porch with gable roof, exposed rafter ends, panel doors and double-hung wood windows (No. 1 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 1-4).
2. Company House #1 Garage (1924): 20' x 30' of white clapboard finish, gable roof covered with corrugated iron, two garage doors and central doorway, exposed rafter ends (No. 2 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 1-2).
3. Company House #2 (1924): 25' x 40' of white clapboard finish, gable roof covered with composition shingles, attached porch with gable roof, exposed rafter ends, panel door and double-hung wood windows (No. 3 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 5-6).
4. Company House #2 Garage (1924): 25' x 40' of white clapboard finish, flat roof covered with corrugated iron, two garage doors and central doorway (No. 4 on Sketch Map and Photo No. 6).
5. Company Office (1924): 12' x 30' of white clapboard finish, gable roof covered with composition shingles, exposed rafter ends and brackets, built-in porch with two square columns and railing, panel doors with lights in upper half, double-hung wood windows 3/1 lights, rusticated concrete block foundation (No. 5 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 7-9).
6. Storage Shed (1924): 5' x 10' of corrugated iron siding, gable roof of corrugated metal, horizontal sliding window with four panes each, panel door, circular air vent, original company sign on south side with original letters of Benjamin Trees Oil Co. still visible although now carries "Center Oil Co. - Mijo Camp" (No. 6 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 10-12).
7. Oil House No. 1 (1924): two attached, gable roof buildings of corrugated metal, plank doors, fixed pane windows with either 8 or 12 lights, circular air vent (No. 7 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 13-15).
8. Oil House No. 2 (1924): 10' x 20' with corrugated metal siding, shed roof covered with corrugated metal, double wood plank doors, two windows one with four panes and the other is open, walkway and building sets on concrete piers (No. 8 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 16-17).
9. Outhouse and Tool Shed (1924): corrugated metal siding on attached buildings, 10' x 15', gable, shed, and flat roofs covered with corrugated metal (No. 9 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 18-19).
10. Supply House (1924): 15' x 20' of corrugated metal siding, gable roof covered with corrugated metal, sliding metal door (No. 10 on Sketch Map and Photo No. 20).

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11. Doghouse for Laselle Mole No. 2 Well (1928): 6' x 10' with corrugated metal siding, gable roof covered with corrugated metal, open doorway, two open window frames (No. 11 on Sketch Map and Photo No. 20).
12. Nipple House (1924): 12' x 25' of white clapboard siding, gable roof covered with composition shingles, wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, sliding wood panel doors with 6 panes each, two double-hung wood windows 3/1 lights, platform entrance, 14' x 16' addition covered with corrugated metal and has shed roof, building supported by concrete blocks (No. 12 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 21-22).
13. Tool Shed (1924): 25' x 50' of corrugated metal siding, gable roof covered with corrugated metal, double swinging doors (No. 13 on Sketch Map and Photo Nos. 23-24).
14. Water Tower (1924): Approximately 30' high, supported by steel pipe tower, tank is of redwood materials and holds 35 barrels of water (No. 14 on Sketch Map and Photo No. 25).
15. B. A. Laselle Mole No. 2 Oil Well and Pumping Unit (1928): Well is 2600' deep to Viola Lime formation, pumper is beam-balanced unit powered by natural gas engine (No. 15 on Sketch Map and Photo No. 20).

Contributing Properties

Thirteen (13) buildings
Two (2) Structures

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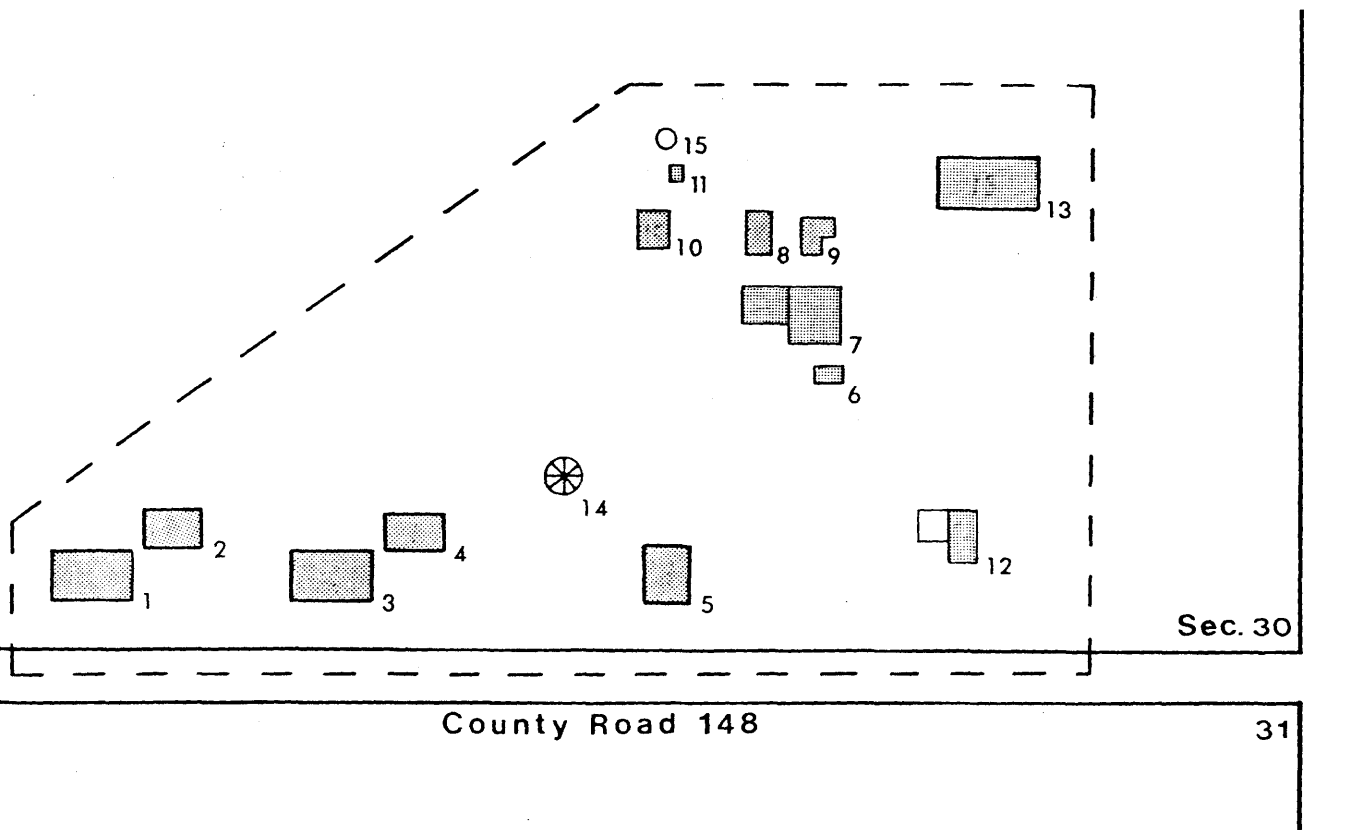
date entered

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MIJO CAMP INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT



- BUILDINGS
- OIL WELL
- ⊗ WATER TOWER
- - DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

1 inch = 100 feet
(approximately)



1. Company House #1
2. Company House #1 Garage
3. Company House #2
4. Company House #2 Garage
5. Company Office
6. Storage Shed
7. Oil House
8. Old Oil House
9. Outhouse and Tool Shed
10. Supply Shed
11. Dog House for B.A. Lasalle Mole #2
12. Nipple House
13. Tool Shed
14. Water Tower
15. B.A. Lasalle Mole #2 Oil Well and Pumping Unit

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/
<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 1924-1934 **Builder/Architect** Benjamin Trees Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mijo Camp Industrial District is historically significant because: (1) it is the oldest remaining oil field production camp in Pontotoc County, and (2) the thirteen buildings and two structures constitute the best preserved and greatest concentration of petroleum production-related historic properties in Pontotoc County.

The Seminole Oil Field was opened in 1923 near Wewoka in Seminole County, however, by 1940 it encompassed all or parts of four additional counties--Pottawatomie, Hughes, Okfuskee, and Pontotoc (see map on continuation sheet for producing areas of the field). The first area to be opened for production in the southern portion of the Seminole Field was the Bebee Pool located in northeastern Pontotoc County (see same map). Drilling operations in the Bebee region began as early as 1921, however, the discovery well, or first gusher, was not opened until 1924 when the Laselle No. 1 Mole was drilled.

The Bebee Pool was approximately five square miles and contained approximately 160 producing wells during the boom era of the 1920s and 1930s. During the peak production years of 1926 through 1934, the Seminole Oil Field produced 702,157,800 barrels of petroleum representing approximately 20 percent of all the oil then being produced in Oklahoma and 4 percent of all oil produced in the United States at that period. Total value of Seminole Oil Field production for that decade was \$1,009,966,794 based on the value of the 1936 dollar.

The Mijo Camp was the first major production camp in the Bebee Pool. The land where the district is located was originally leased by the B. A. Laselle Company which had acquired leases throughout the Bebee Pool for drilling purposes. Once the Bebee Pool was proven and the 160 wells had been drilled and were producing, Laselle, a drilling operation, sold the lease land to the Benjamin Trees Company of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in early 1924.

The Trees Company, a production outfit, erected twelve of the thirteen buildings and one structure (water tower) in 1924. The remaining properties, the Laselle No. 2 Mole pumping unit and nearby "doghouse" were erected in 1928 following the discovery of the Laselle No. 2 Mole oil well.

The Mijo Camp was the node for production operations in the Bebee Pool. Production company crews are in charge of bringing oil and gas to the surface and preparing them for their trip through the pipeline to the refinery. More specifically, the Trees Company employees performed maintenance operations on the wells and pumping units as well as treating, measuring, and testing the oil and gas before they were run to the pipeline.

The Mijo Camp complex served as the center for company employee housing, storage for company production records,* and supply facility for tools, parts, and equipment to be used in servicing the 160 wells in the Bebee Pool. The company employees, known as "pumpers," were responsible for checking the wells every 24 hours. Duties included maintenance of well-head machinery such as replacement of worn out or malfunctioning equipment, taking samples of fluids from lease tanks in the field to test and measure them, and keeping accurate production records. The sampling procedure consisted of checking BSW (basic sediment and water), specific gravity, and temperature. Record keeping included measurement and testing data as well as pipeline run tickets upon which the production company and transportation company (usually a pipeline carrier) must agree that the quality of the crude oil and gas is ready for shipment.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Personal Interview with Mr. Shag Booth, June 22, 1984
Mr. Paul Tucker, June 10, 1984
Morris, John W. et.al., The Greater Seminole Oil Field, Oklahoma City: Western Heritage
Heritage Books, 1981

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property ca. 5 acres

Quadrangle name Vanoss, OK

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

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

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See 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 Judy M. Hettich, Directed by Dr. George O. Carney

organization Department of Geography date February 1985

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. E. M. et al.* date 7-30-85

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

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

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

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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The two company houses within the district were and still are occupied by the pumpers, full-time employees of the production company. The two nearby garages housed trucks used by the pumpers each day as they traveled throughout the Bebee Pool checking wells and testing fluids. The office building was the major storage center for company production records including number of barrels each well produced, data on qualities of the fluids (BSW, specific gravity, and temperature), and pipeline run tickets.

The two oil houses provided storage for lubricants used in servicing the well site equipment. The storage shed housed equipment used to pull sucker rods from producing wells, an operation performed most frequently for rod string repairs. The two tool sheds contained tools needed for routine maintenance work such as repair of tubing leaks, replacement of packers that failed, and repair of sucker rod breaks. The supply house was storage center for rod pumps, tubing, packers, and casing repair parts; all needed for replacement in producing wells when corrosive conditions occur. The nipple house contained pipes, fittings, and valves used in replacing worn out or malfunctioning equipment.

The doghouse was a one room building, located near the Laselle No. 2 Mole oil well, used for small supplies. It was at times used also as a lunch room, change room, and protective shelter for the convenience of camp employees. The outhouse was also a convenience for workers in the camp.

The water tower was the major source of water for the camp. Water was pumped from a nearby water well to the tower via a pipeline and was powered by a gasoline motor in a round house near the water well. Neither of these properties are in the district. The water tower tank held 35 barrels of water (42 gallons per barrel). It is the only historic property in the district that is no longer used.

B. A. Laselle No. 2 Mole well was drilled on the camp grounds in 1928. The well is approximately 2600' deep drilled to the Viola Lime formation and currently produces 2-3 barrels of crude oil per day. The pumping unit installed over the well is the original beam balanced type that carries its well-balancing weights on the walking beam on the end opposite the pump rods. The weights are in the form of heavy iron plates added to the walking beam until they balance the pull or weight of the string of pumping rods. It is powered by the original 2-cylinder gas engine.

From 1924 to 1972, the district properties were owned and operated by the Benjamin Trees Company. It was then purchased by the Center Oil Company owned by M.E. "Shag" Booth and his two son-in-laws, who currently own all the leases in the Bebee Field and use the Mijo Camp for their production center.

The Mijo Camp Industrial District maintains a strong link to the past not only through its building types but through its functions and processes which are still carried on in much the same manner as when the complex was erected in the 1920s. Although there has been some deterioration to the buildings and several are in need of paint, only one minor alteration has occurred, a 14' x 16' addition to the nipple house, completed in the 1930s.

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The historic and architectural integrity of the Mijo Camp has been retained for over 60 years and the camp is virtually unchanged from the 1920s boom era. Because there are no intrusions in the district, the overall ambiance and character of a boom era oil field company camp remains intact.

In summary, the Mijo Camp Industrial District provides a vital educational resource concerning early industrial complexes built during oil boom periods including design of buildings, arrangement and types of buildings and structures, use of construction materials, functions carried on in the buildings, and positioning of the camp in relation to the oil wells serviced by camp employees.

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Verbal Boundary - Mijo Camp

Beginning at a point 120' west of the center of the intersection of section line roads 29, 30, 31, and 32, T5N R5E, proceed north 300' to the northeast corner of said district. From there proceed west 250', thence proceed southwest 390' to the western boundary, then proceed south 100' to the southwest corner of district, thence east 568' to the point of beginning. All properties included in the district are within these boundaries.