

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

For NPS use only

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

received APR 9 1986

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Home Stake Oil and Gas Company Building

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number 315 East Broadway N/A not for publication

city, town Seminole N/Avicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Seminole code 133

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input 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. George Cook

street & number 315 East Broadway

city, town Seminole N/Avicinity of state Oklahoma 74868

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Seminole County Courthouse

city, town Wewoka state Oklahoma 74884

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 Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Home Stake Oil and Gas Company is a two-story, flat roofed commercial building finished with red brick. The brick is laid in the running bond with a header course every twelfth layer. The building is adjoined by a two-story commercial building on the east. It is approximately 25' x 125'.

The facade, or north side, has two openings in first floor and three in the second. The original entryway remains intact and consists of double wood doors each with single pane and original hardware. The double doors are set in a recessed area framed by Carthage marble surround. The original display window to the west of the entryway has been converted into a glass door and smaller display window. The second story original windows are 1/1 double-hung wood types which have been covered with louvered metal paneling for protection.

The first story of the west side has three 2/2 double-hung wood windows in the northern half and three sets of paired 2/2 double-hung wood windows in southern half. Between the sets of paired windows are three wood paneled doors. Second story fenestration includes eight 2/2 double-hung windows.

Rear first story has one 2/2 double-hung window and one air duct near southeast corner. Second story has two 2/2 double-hung windows and a second air duct. The air ducts were used for a return input system for an earlier air conditioning unit. Both ducts have been covered with galvanized metal plates.

The east wall adjoins the two-story commercial building.

Decorative features include the ornately designed stepped parapet on facade and wrapping around east and west sides for approximately 10'. The parapet is of marble and brick with the upper marble portion featuring volutes on ends and an inscription reading: "19 HOME STAKE 27". The facade's round arched entryway and decorative hood mold over display window are of white marble. Second story facade windows and one set of windows on west side have flat arches of marble and are keyed. All windows have white marble slip sills.

Although the original display window has been altered and some windows have been replaced, the nominated property retains a sense of integrity reflective of the industrial history of Seminole during the oil boom era of the late 1920's.

CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES

one(1) 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 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 1927-1928 **Builder/Architect** Edward J. Peters - Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Home Stake Oil and Gas Company Building is significant because it is the only remaining historic resource in Seminole associated with the first petroleum company to explore, sell leases, and drill wells in the Greater Seminole Oil Field, a field which produced 702,157,800 barrels of oil from 1926 to 1936. During this boom period, an estimated \$1,009,966,794 worth of crude oil was produced, and during these peak production years, the Seminole Field was producing 4 percent of all crude oil being produced in the United States.

The petroleum history of Seminole County parallels the life of one individual-- O.D. Strother, founder of the Home Stake Oil and Gas Company. Strother had seen a United States Geological Survey map and report in 1892 and was convinced there was an oil producing area in Range 7. As a shoe salesman, Strother spent time meeting people in the area and examining the topography as he traveled the roads. When the United States Congress removed restrictions on the sale of Seminole Indian lands, he bought allotments one by one in the area where he thought there was oil bearing formations. In ca. 1905, he hired a geologist from Pennsylvania and a small crew to help him do some preliminary exploration. He promoted the area for the next ten years by visiting officials of oil companies, oil editors of newspapers, heads of drilling companies, lease buyers, and petroleum brokers. He borrowed money to purchase more land and by 1917 had accumulated over 5,500 acres.

In 1917, Strother organized the Home Stake Oil and Gas Company and sold shares in order to raise approximately \$50,000 to help pay interest notes on borrowed money, property taxes, and to buy more land. The Home Stake crew drilled several dry wells in the early 1920's in Seminole County because they were not drilling deep enough.

Unfortunately, Strother died on March 17, 1926, four months before the oil he knew lay beneath the surface could be tapped. Before Strother's will could be probated, oil was brought in on the Strother land and the Home Stake Company netted \$7,500,000. The richest quarter section of the Seminole Field was the Strother A lease with a gross production of 17,064,000 barrels of oil from 17 wells.

Upon Strother's death, the Home Stake Company was willed to his only son-in-law, J. R. Simpson. Its landholdings of approximately 6,000 acres immediately became the focal point for several major petroleum companies from Oklahoma and Texas including Pure, Carter, Gulf, and Phillips; all of which wanted mineral rights for exploration and production purposes.

The Home Stake Company offices quickly outgrew their location in a downtown Seminole wood frame office building and Simpson decided to construct a permanent structure to house the company business. In 1927 during the peak production of the Greater Seminole Field, the Home Stake Building was completed in downtown Seminole, which had become a boom town of great proportions. The building was constructed of red brick and trimmed with white marble from Carthage, Missouri and was one of the most impressive commercial buildings constructed during the boom era.

Approximately one year later, Simpson decided to move the Home Stake Company to Tulsa because the company again had outgrown the building and he wanted to be closer to the offices of major petroleum companies in the "Oil Capital of Oklahoma". According to O. D. Strothers' grandson, O. Strother Simpson, the Home Stake remains a viable oil and gas company with offices in the Tower Building in Tulsa.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Morris, John W. et. al., The Greater Seminole Oil Field. Oklahoma City: Western Heritage Books, 1981.

Interview: George Cook, July, 1984

O. Strother Simpson, February, 1985

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Seminole, OK

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	7	1	2	3	0	0	3	9	0	0	1	6	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

West 25' of Lots 1-4, Block 27, Original Townsite of Seminole, OK

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 Hettich Supervised 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. Sufetoff 3-31-86

title date

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

William B. Bushong
Keeper of the National Register

date 5/14/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

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The original Home Stake office in Seminole was located in a wood frame building which was razed in the late 1920's. O. D. Strothers' home in Seminole has had extensive alterations because it was converted to a funeral home in the 1930's.

The Home Stake Building in Seminole served as office space for several other oil companies from 1928 to end of the boom in mid-1940's. It is currently occupied by a carpet and tile company, however, the inscription at the top of the facade which reads: "19 HOME STAKE 27" is an historic reminder of the significance of the company which opened the Seminole Oil Field of Oklahoma. Although the Home Stake Oil and Gas Company occupied the nominated property only one year, it is the only remaining structure in Seminole associated with this historic petroleum company, the first to explore, sell leases, and drill wells in the Greater Seminole Oil Field.