

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



982

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Petroleum Building

OTHER NAME / SITE NUMBER: Life of America Building, Schick Building, Finevest Building, Executive Plaza Building

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 210 West Sixth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Worth

VICINITY: N/A

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

STATE: Texas

CODE: TX

COUNTY: Tarrant

CODE: 439

ZIP CODE: 76102

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

Texas Historical Commission

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  
 See continuation sheet.
- other, explain  
 See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

*Edson H. Beall*

12-3-09

**5. CLASSIFICATION**

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: PRIVATE

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: BUILDING

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
	1	0	BUILDINGS
	0	0	SITES
	0	0	STRUCTURES
	0	0	OBJECTS
	1	0	TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE / Business = office building

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE / Business = office building

**7. DESCRIPTION**

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Skyscraper

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION CONCRETE  
 WALLS BRICK, STONE  
 ROOF GRAVEL, COMPOSITE  
 OTHER

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Petroleum Building is a 14-story building located in downtown Fort Worth at the northeast corner of Throckmorton and Sixth streets. Constructed in 1927, the two-part vertical block building features Gothic architectural ornamentation on the two primary, street-facing elevations and is therefore described as being of the Commercial Gothic style. The primary elevations of the Petroleum Building are the Throckmorton Street and Sixth Street elevations, each of which features stone ornamentation, including narrow pilaster strips and stone owl carvings, and a five-bay composition on upper floors. The partition of the façade into defined narrow vertical bays, combined with other stone ornamentation, contributes to the building's Commercial Gothic aesthetic. Fort Worth-based architect Wyatt C. Hedrick designed the building shortly after absorbing the practice of prominent Texas architects Marshall Sanguinet and Carl Staats upon their retirement. Original elements of the building have remained intact through a number of renovations, and restoration efforts have corrected modifications made to the ground floor of the building in the late 1960s. The Petroleum Building is nominated under Criteria A and C for its local significance in the areas of Commerce and Architecture.

The primary elevations of the Petroleum Building are the elevations facing Throckmorton and Sixth streets, with widths of 100 feet and 95 feet, respectively. From the primary elevations, the building appears to have a rectangular footprint that covers the entire lot, but in actuality it has an L-shaped footprint, the shape of which is only discernable from the north elevation. **(Photo 1)** Like many other skyscrapers of its era, the Petroleum Building is constructed of brick masonry over a steel frame. The composition of the building is a two-part vertical block. Designed for the distinct purpose of housing businesses associated with Fort Worth's oil industry, the upper floors of the building were dedicated to office space, and the ground floor housed various retail and specialty shops accessible to the public. The building is of the traditional style for commercial skyscrapers in that the basement and first floor are visually distinct from upper floors, reflecting the differing use of floor space in the interior. Upper floors have double-hung sash windows, but each bay of the first floor features fixed six-light windows with wide metal tracery. Stone ornamentation is present on the primary elevations only; the north and east elevations are sparsely treated, with the brick wall surface exposed. An elevator penthouse is visible from the east elevation.

### West Elevation

The Throckmorton Street façade features a two-part composition, with the first floor distinguished from the upper 13 floors through the arrangement of fenestration and decorative elements. **(Photo 2)** The first floor features five window bays that correspond to the division of bays in upper floors. **(Photo 3)** Fixed, six-light windows are present in four of the bays, the center bay featuring a single-door entrance. **(Photo 4)** This elevation historically served as the entrance to businesses located on the first floor.

Upper floors are divided into five vertically arranged bays, each bay being three windows wide. Major pilaster strips originating at the first floor define the vertical bays. Within each bay, minor pilaster strips run vertically between each window, creating more vertical definition. **(Photo 5)** Stone carvings of owls, each owl having its wings spread, support the bases of the major pilaster strips. **(Photo 6)** The symbol of the owl is typically associated with wisdom, or the pursuit of knowledge. The minor pilaster strips originate at the second floor and are supported by decorative floral stone element, each having four stylized leaves with rolled-over ends. **(Photo 7)** On the upper floors, beneath each window in every bay are stone panels. In each of the end bays (the northernmost and southernmost) of the east façade, beneath the windows on

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

floors 2 through 13, the stone panels feature a shield and banner design. **(Photo 8)** The panels of the center three bays have no ornamentation.

## North Elevation

The north elevation is sparsely treated. The wall surface is red brick, revealing the structural surface on which the stone ornamentation of the west and south façades is hung. The building's L-shaped plan is discernable from the north elevation. **(Photo 9)** The eastern half of the elevation is recessed to approximately one-half of the building's length, creating the L-shaped footprint. Though absent of architectural embellishment, an emphasis on the building's verticality is present on the north elevation as windows are arranged in narrow vertical columns. The western half of that elevation has five columns of double-hung windows, two columns of windows flanking each side of a center column. **(Photo 10)** The center column of windows extends from the top floor to the third floor of the building; the flanking pairs of window columns extend from the top down to the seventh floor, with single windows located on the sixth floor. The center portion of the elevation features two columns of windows that extend from the top to approximately the fourth floor. The eastern segment of the elevation projects slightly farther north than the center segment and has one narrow column of double-hung windows. A metal pipe is located in the corner created by the eastern segment and the slightly more recessed center segment of the elevation. **(see Photo 9)**

## East Elevation

The east elevation abuts the lot line and is separated from the neighboring structure, a parking garage, by a narrow alley. **(Photo 11)** Though the parking garage prohibits one from viewing the east elevation in its entirety, portions of the east elevation are visible from the north and south elevations. The northern half of the east elevation is recessed, and wide double-hung sash windows are present at the northernmost bay of that elevation as well as metal fire escape stairs. **(see Photo 9)** There is only one column of windows on the southernmost corner of the elevation. **(Photo 12)** These windows are visible when viewing the building from the southeast. **(see Photo 11)** Elevator shafts are present on the interior at this elevation, explaining the absence of windows on the majority of the southern portion of that elevation. The elevator penthouse extends one story above the building's roofline and is most visible from the east elevation. **(see Photo 11)** Like the rest of the building, the exterior wall surfaces of the south and east elevations of the elevator penthouse are both of stone, and the north and west elevations are uncovered brick. A one-story covered pedestrian bridge is located between the fifth floor of the Petroleum Building and the neighboring parking garage but is only visible from certain angles of the south and north elevations. **(Photo 13)**

## South Elevation

The south, or Sixth Street, elevation historically served as the entrance to businesses located on the first floor. **(Photo 14)** Tenants of the upper floors entered the building at Sixth Street, that entrance leading directly to two elevators. The decorative elements are identical to those on the west elevation. Like the west elevation, the façade of the south elevation features a two-part vertical composition, with the first floor distinguished from the upper 13 floors through the arrangement of fenestration and decorative elements. **(Photo 15)** The first floor features five window bays that correspond to the division of upper floors. Six-panel, fixed windows are present in four of the bays, and beneath the sill of each window bay is a decorative horizontal iron grate. **(Photo 16)** The arrangement of windows and doors differs in that the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

doorway is located at the easternmost bay. A copper-clad awning is located above the doorway, which leads to the lobby and elevators. **(Photo 17)**

As on the west elevation, upper floors on the south elevation are divided into five vertically arranged bays, each bay being three windows wide. **(Photo 18)** Major pilaster and minor pilaster strips function to distinguish the vertical bays and the three windows within each bay. **(Photo 19)** An identical application of decorative elements is present on the south façade, including the stone owl major pier supports, floral minor pier supports, and shield and banner elements below each window in the western- and eastern-most vertical bays. **(Photo 20)**

## Interior

At present, the Petroleum Building operates as an office building, maintaining its historic association with commerce in downtown Fort Worth. Tenants access a lobby and elevators to upper floors from the Sixth Street entrance. A small sitting area is located in the lobby across from a reception desk. **(Figure 1)** Original plaster molding is present above the sitting area, and original marble wainscoting is present on several walls in the lobby. Three elevators with polished brass doors are located at the north end of the lobby. **(Figure 2)** Across from the elevators, a marble stairway leads to a corridor to the Throckmorton Street entrance and additional office spaces. No historic floor plans were available for the Petroleum Building; however, city directories indicate that typically between three and four businesses and a cigar stand were located on the ground floor throughout the building's period of significance. Individual directory listings for businesses on the ground floor were typically addressed at Throckmorton Street. Interior space fronting Throckmorton Street is currently separated and distinct from the lobby. **(Figure 3)**

Elevators provide the primary access to office spaces on the upper floors. Offices are located along two primary corridors on each floor, corresponding to the building's L-shaped plan. **(Figure 4)** One corridor extends almost the entire length of the building, extending west from the elevators to the far wall of an intersecting corridor. The second corridor intersects with the corridor leading from the elevators near the west elevation and extends the length of the building, from the south to the north elevation. Individual offices are located off the two primary hallways, and many have window views. **(Figure 5)** A small corridor on the east side of the second primary corridor leads to the building's fire escape, located on the east elevation of the tower. Historic windows with large glass panels reinforced with finely gauged steel netting are located at the fire escapes. **(Figure 6)** Most offices appear to retain their historic configuration. On each floor, at least one room near the elevators has been converted into a kitchenette and break room.

## Alterations

Since its original construction, the Petroleum Building has undergone renovations by various owners. The most significant alterations occurred in 1969 when the Schick Investment Company acquired the building. In their original form, the pilaster strips extended from the first floor and expired at the top of the building in Gothic crockets. **(Figure 7)** Photographs indicate that the crockets were in place in December 1968, **(Figure 8)** but by 1974 had been removed. **(Figure 9)** The crockets were most likely removed during the \$1,000,000 "modernization" of the building that took place between 1968 and 1969 under the Schick Investment Company. In addition to the removal of the crockets from the roofline, the double-hung sash windows were replaced with fixed aluminum windows, and the original stone at the base of the building was removed and replaced with cast-concrete panels.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

---

After XTO Energy purchased the building in 2005, the company undertook a restoration effort to return the Petroleum Building to its original appearance. Cast-concrete base panels installed in the 1960s were removed, and sections of cut granite veneer were put in their place to replicate the original stone base. Decorative tubular steel gratings, replicated from historic photos of the building, were installed below first floor windows. Fixed metal windows installed in the upper floors in 1969 were removed, and replacement windows were installed throughout the building using double-hung wood sash with exterior aluminum cladding and clear glazed glass. The awning over the Sixth Street entrance was reclad in copper to represent its original design. Photos taken circa 1950 depict the building with awnings over the first floor windows and entrances. A photo in the 1927 city directory indicates that the awnings were not present, and not part of the building's original construction. As such, the awnings were not included as part of the recent restoration effort. Efforts have been made to restore and preserve original elements of the lobby, including tile and plaster moldings.

---

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

---

**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

- 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:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Commerce, Architecture

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1927-1959

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** N/A

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Wyatt C. Hedrick

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-17).

---

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheets 9-18 through 9-19).

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

- 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 (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government (*Tarrant County Appraisal District*)
- University (*University of Texas at Arlington Library, Special Collections*)
- Other -- Specify Repository: *Historic Fort Worth, Inc.; Fort Worth Public Library*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by Wyatt C. Hedrick, the Petroleum Building was constructed in 1927 at the northeast corner of Throckmorton and Sixth streets. The Petroleum Building was one of several skyscrapers constructed in downtown Fort Worth during the expansion of commercial ventures in the region in the early decades of the twentieth century. The period of significance for the structure is 1927 to 1959, the latter date corresponding to the 50-year criterion for significance. The Dulaney-Johnston Investment Company financed the construction of the building with the intent of leasing office space to companies associated with the growing oil industry in Fort Worth. For several decades, the building served as home to a number of oil-related businesses as well as an assortment of other professionals. The ground level provided access to the offices, and housed several retail businesses accessible to the public from the Throckmorton Street entrance. Aside from its association with the commercial ventures in Fort Worth, the building also serves as an early example of the Commercial Gothic style, which characterized Hedrick's early designs in the late 1920s and early 1930s. In the Petroleum Building, Hedrick emphasized the building's verticality, using vertical pilaster strips to define vertical bays of windows as well as stone ornamentation to create the building's Gothic aesthetic. Though it is Gothic in ornamentation, the building is of the Commercial style, having two ornamented elevations facing the street, and two sparsely treated elevations abutting neighboring structures. The building reflects the influence of the oil industry and its effect on Fort Worth's growth and the opportunities for entrepreneurs in the early twentieth century, at both the corporate and independent level. The Petroleum Building is recommended eligible under Criteria A and C for its local significance in the areas of Commerce and Architecture.

## Development of the City of Fort Worth

In 1849, Major Ripley Arnold was charged with the task of establishing a military post in north Texas to further strengthen the frontier defense line the U.S. Army had created.<sup>1</sup> Arnold selected a site at the confluence of the Clear and West forks of the Trinity River in May, and weeks later, on June 6, 1849, Fort Worth was officially established.<sup>2</sup> Fort Worth, initially referred to as Camp Worth, was named in honor of Maj. Gen. William Jenkins Worth, a Mexican-American War veteran and department commander of Texas who died of cholera on May 7, only one month prior to the installation's formal establishment. Despite undergoing a change in name from "Camp Worth" to "Fort Worth" in November 1849, the installation at Fort Worth was not a walled or substantially fortified structure as the name may imply.<sup>3</sup> Never occupied by more than approximately 70 men, the structures composing the fort were secured simply by a rope line fence.<sup>4</sup> The fort's location atop a high bluff overlooking the Trinity River afforded it with an increased measure of security however, allowing the fort's occupants "a clear view of the surrounding countryside for miles in every direction."<sup>5</sup>

Shortly after the fort's establishment, more civilians arrived in the area, a number of whom settled within the vicinity of the fort and began to open businesses to cater to the soldiers and other arriving settlers. Such settlers became the group that would sustain Fort Worth after the army withdrew and closed the fort four years later. By 1853, the frontier line

<sup>1</sup> Richard F. Selcer, *The Fort That Became A City: An Illustrated Reconstruction of Fort Worth, Texas, 1849-1853* (Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1995) 10.

<sup>2</sup> Richard F. Selcer, *Fort Worth: A Texas Original!* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 2004) 3-4.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 7.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 4-7.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 4.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

shifted west, and the army made the decision to withdraw troops from Fort Worth and move them farther west. The army turned the fort over to a population of less than 100 civilian settlers who moved into the abandoned structures and adapted them for their own use, using the former military installation as the footprint of a new town.<sup>6</sup>

From 1853 to 1876, growth in Fort Worth occurred sporadically. An important step in connecting the town to a larger transportation network was the commencement of regular stage service from Fort Belknap, northwest of Fort Worth near present-day Newcastle, and Dallas in 1857.<sup>7</sup> After several years of dispute with the town of Birdville, the Texas legislature formally named Fort Worth the county seat of Tarrant County in 1860.<sup>8</sup> Despite its designation as county seat, Fort Worth remained “a rural outpost of the plantation South,” around which, “fields of cotton and corn stretched to the south and west where Henderson and Lancaster Streets now lie, and sheep grazed on what is now Arlington Heights.”<sup>9</sup> During the Civil War, these agricultural resources allowed Fort Worth to become a supplier of food and clothing for the Confederate Army, providing supplies such as corn, flour, beef, and leather to the Confederates as well as uniforms produced by Fort Worth women using locally grown cotton.<sup>10</sup> Fort Worth’s population, estimated at 350 in 1861, was reduced to a third of that during the war years. Though the Civil War officially ended in April 1865, hostilities west of the Mississippi continued until May of that year. By the fall of 1865, local veterans returned and federal troops, sent to oversee Reconstruction, arrived in Fort Worth.<sup>11</sup>

Unlike many former Confederate strongholds, Fort Worth began to reshape its economy and identity relatively quickly after the Civil War. Following the war’s end, a great demand for Texas beef developed in northern states, as the war had depleted the livestock population in that region.<sup>12</sup> In April 1866, the first contract cattle drive from South Texas to Missouri passed through Fort Worth. Prior to the Civil War, cattle herds had gone through Fort Worth, but the postwar years saw the birth of commercial cattle drives on a large scale and the development of the cattle industry as it is commonly thought of today.<sup>13</sup> A number of trails ran from South Texas through Oklahoma to Kansas, where shipping depots were established. The McCoy Trail (or Eastern Trail) ran through Fort Worth and turned the city into an important stop for cowboys, serving as “a provisioning capital going north and an R&R stop on the way back home.”<sup>14</sup> The capital that cowboys brought to Fort Worth greatly aided the city’s economic recovery. Also contributing to the city’s growth was the buffalo trade, which commenced in Fort Worth around 1870. The trade was short-lived, however. By 1876, the southern buffalo population was essentially wiped out, and thus the trade could not continue.<sup>15</sup>

The end of the buffalo trade did little to hamper the growth of Fort Worth, and the 1870s were a time of important developments. In 1870, streets were surveyed southward from Courthouse Square, assigned numbers from First Street to Tenth Street. On February 17, 1873, the state legislature signed Fort Worth’s charter of incorporation, and the town formally became a city with an area of approximately four square miles.<sup>16</sup> Arguably, the most significant event of that

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 9.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 10–11.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 4, 10.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 14.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 12.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 15.

<sup>12</sup> Randolph B. Campbell, *Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), 297.

<sup>13</sup> Selcer, *Fort Worth*: 16

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 17.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 17.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 19.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

decade, however, was the arrival of the first railroad line in 1876. The Texas & Pacific Railroad reached Fort Worth on July 19, 1876, five years after Congress granted the charter to the Texas & Pacific to construct the transcontinental line.<sup>17</sup> The Texas & Pacific was the only railroad in the state of Texas to operate under a charter granted by the federal government.<sup>18</sup> At the south end of the city, E. M. Daggett donated approximately 90 acres of his family farm to entice the Texas & Pacific to build a line through Fort Worth. The city constructed a train station on the donated land and opened a streetcar line running from the station to the public square.<sup>19</sup> By 1890, 11 railroad lines ran through Fort Worth, and city officials donated approximately 300 acres at the south end of the city as a "Railroad Reservation" on which the Texas & Pacific constructed its terminal and other supporting structures.

The arrival of the Texas and Pacific Railroad in 1876 had a dramatic effect on the city's growth. The population of Fort Worth grew exponentially as entrepreneurs flocked to the area in anticipation of new economic opportunities associated with the railroad. Throughout the 1880s, a number of manufacturing and service-related industries developed to support the railroad, the passengers who stopped over in Fort Worth, and the city's growing population.<sup>20</sup> Businesses, such as foundry and machinery shops, opened in Fort Worth (and in other regional hubs such as San Antonio), during the late nineteenth century, adding "important components to the nascent industrial capacity of Texas."<sup>21</sup> By the end of the decade, the city's economy was strengthened and stabilized by dozens of mills, factories, foundries, and other facilities.<sup>22</sup> The growing population reflected the economic prosperity. Fort Worth's population was approximately 500 in 1870, and by 1890, had grown to 23,076.<sup>23</sup>

As the city's population grew, so did its role in the cattle industry. In 1887, the Fort Worth Union Stock Yards was chartered through the efforts of local residents John Peter Smith, Morgan Jones, and J. W. Burgess.<sup>24</sup> Groundbreaking occurred in 1888, north of downtown and the Trinity River and the Stockyards officially opened in 1889 under the management of Colonel Henry Clay Holloway. The Stockyards at that time covered 253 acres, with approximately three-quarters of a mile bordering the Trinity River. Investors established a streetcar line running from downtown Fort Worth to the stockyards in 1889. From that point on, because of the presence of the railroads and the Stockyards in Fort Worth, "cattle drives, except for short distances, were a thing of the past."<sup>25</sup> Fort Worth became the terminus where cattle could be sold and shipped to markets in cities such as Kansas City and St. Louis.

Though a locally owned meat packing plant was established in the Stockyards in 1890, the company lacked the capital to purchase large quantities of cattle, and cowboys selling in Fort Worth preferred to send their livestock elsewhere.<sup>26</sup> In the spring of 1901, negotiations began with the Armour and Swift meat-packing companies to establish facilities in Fort Worth. In March 1903, the Armour and Swift companies opened meat-packing plants in the Stockyards, which

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 20.

<sup>18</sup> Campbell, *Gone to Texas*, 306.

<sup>19</sup> Selcer, *Fort Worth*, 21.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 25.

<sup>21</sup> Diana Davids Olien and Roger M. Olien, *Oil in Texas: The Gusher Age, 1895-1945* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2002), 11.

<sup>22</sup> Oliver Knight, *Fort Worth: Outpost on the Trinity*. (Ft. Worth, TCU Press) 125.

<sup>23</sup> Campbell, *Gone to Texas*: 308.

<sup>24</sup> J'Nell Pate, *North of the River: A Brief History of North Fort Worth* (Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1994), 17.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., 18.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 20-22.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

dramatically transformed that area and Fort Worth itself. By 1904, the Fort Worth Stockyards was the fifth largest livestock market in the nation and by 1910 was third, behind only Chicago and Kansas City.<sup>27</sup>

The arrival of the oil industry to Fort Worth was an important impetus to the city's growth in the 1910s. A producing well was dug as early as 1866 near Nacogdoches, but it was not until 1901 that the oil craze began when a well at Spindletop began producing between 75,000 and 100,000 barrels of oil per day.<sup>28</sup> Spindletop is located near the Texas-Louisiana state line, and though drilling activity picked up throughout the state, it was not until the 1910s that oil in significant quantities was discovered in north and west Texas. In 1911, the first north Texas "gusher" was drilled in Electra, slightly northwest of Wichita Falls.<sup>29</sup> In 1917, a well at Ranger began producing a substantial amount of oil, and eventually, other lucrative deposits were discovered in the vicinity. Fort Worth was the closest city to those deposits and soon became headquarters to a number of small oil companies and businesses related to the oil industry.

Fort Worth developed as a regional center for independent oil producers, primarily for those operating in north and west Texas. Railroads located in Fort Worth serviced a larger area in north and west Texas than did railroads in Wichita Falls, another regional oil center. Already established as the commercial and banking center for the cattle trade from west Texas, the city was set to adapt to its new role as a center for the growing number of entrepreneurs and oil-related support industries.<sup>30</sup> The majority of oil operations based in Fort Worth and operating in north Texas were independent ventures, typically headed by "successful businessmen who were drawn into the industry from other pursuits."<sup>31</sup> The general *modus operandi* for these "independents" was the discovery and sale of producing wells to larger companies, being "inclined to focus operations in one or two regions," and "becoming adept at exploiting strategies especially tailored to exploration and production in them."<sup>32</sup> The independents were also known for their contributions to the cities in which they were based.<sup>33</sup> Their contributions focused on economic development, including the construction of large office buildings that acted as their own corporate headquarters as well as creating office space for a number of associated businesses.

### Richard Otto Dulaney and the Petroleum Building

Independent oil operator Richard Otto ("R.O.") Dulaney was born in Fannin County, Texas, in 1882. When Dulaney was 10 years old, his father, T. J. Dulaney, relocated the family to Cornish, Oklahoma, where he operated a grocery store and cotton gin.<sup>34</sup> R.O.'s first jobs included employment at a hardware store and at the Cornish bank. Shortly after his 1903 marriage to Stella Allard, a cousin of Texas Governor James Allard, Dulaney began buying and selling land, his first entrepreneurial venture, and became the mayor of Cornish, as well. Dulaney's first foray into the oil business came in 1916 when he relocated to Ardmore, Oklahoma. Dulaney leased 80 acres at Healdton Field and dug two producing wells, which he reportedly sold for \$100,000 in 1917.<sup>35</sup> Dulaney invested in successful leases at Duncan, Oklahoma, and Ranger

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., 27.

<sup>28</sup> Campbell, 326.

<sup>29</sup> Olien, 78.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., 89.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 86.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 87.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., 87.

<sup>34</sup> *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, "Oil Pioneer Dies at 84: Richard Dulaney Turned Risks into Riches," 28 August 1966.

<sup>35</sup> Historical Committee of the Fort Worth Petroleum Club, *Oil Legends of Fort Worth* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1993), 118.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

and Electra, Texas, and formed the Planet Oil Company with three others.<sup>36</sup> Three years after the Planet Oil Company was established, the company sold for \$3,000,000.<sup>37</sup> In 1919, he moved to Fort Worth and enjoyed continued success with the Fort Ringling Oil and Gas Company, the company's name being a combination of Fort Worth and Ringling, Oklahoma. Dulaney continued to prosper in Fort Worth and in 1923 built a Florentine-style villa on Elizabeth Boulevard, designed by R.A. Nichols.<sup>38</sup>

When Dulaney first decided to construct a large office building in Fort Worth—perhaps as a result of his entrepreneurial spirit—he sought to construct a building for the medical arts rather than the oil community. After his arrival in Fort Worth, Dulaney formed the Dulaney-Johnston Investment Corporation with John Porter Johnston.<sup>39</sup> On November 2, 1922, an announcement in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* stated that Dulaney would construct a 10-story Medical Arts Building at the corner of Sixth and Throckmorton streets.<sup>40</sup> Reportedly, the article gave rise to rumors that Lloyd McKee and Wyatt C. Hedrick were “at the same time financing a 16-story building for the medical community, already with the backing of the Tarrant County Medical Society.”<sup>41</sup> Dulaney and Johnston never constructed the medical arts building but instead, four years later, enlisted Hedrick as the architect for the Petroleum Building, which was complete by 1927.

Throughout the late 1920s and the 1930s, the majority of tenants in the Petroleum Building were businesses related to the oil industry. Many tenants were smaller operators that occupied a small number of offices in the building; others, such as Pure Oil and Gulf Oil, occupied one or more floors. In 1928, oil-related companies such as the Grover Corporation (oil well supplies); McMahan Oil and Pipe Line Company; C.D. Lockwood (oil reports); Buell Meter and Gas Testing Company; Peters and Thompson, geologists; Forest Oil Corporation; M.W. Boyle (oil leases); and Hill & Hill (oil leases) had offices in the building. A number of other drilling companies, oil well supply companies, and oil operators occupied the building's upper floors as well. Tenants not directly involved with oil drilling or production included J.S. Boche & Company, brokers, and the National Bond & Mortgage Company on the ground floor; as well as the Brants Company, insurance; Levy & Evans, attorneys; the International Accountants Society; Ohio National Life Insurance Company; Bankers Security Corporation; Western Union Telegraph Company; and the Tarrant Business College to name a few. The building's tenants also enjoyed a proximity to services such as Cullin & Harris Cigars, as well as the Petroleum Beauty Shop and the Petroleum Building Barber Shop on upper floors.

By 1929, the M.C. Anderson Drug Company, Bandy Reproduction Company, and Ault Music Company opened on the ground floor, providing services that would draw more public foot traffic to the ground floor of the building. New England Cafeteria and the Acme Mailing & Multigraphing Company were operating in the basement, and the majority of businesses on upper floors continued to be those related to the oil industry. Pure Oil Company occupied the eighth and ninth floors, and Gulf Oil Company (Gulf Production Company and Gulf Pipeline Company) occupied the tenth through the fourteenth floors.<sup>42</sup> Located on the fourteenth floor were Dulaney's companies, Fort Ringling Oil and Gas Company and Dulaney Investment Corporation.<sup>43</sup> In 1932 the Dulaney Building Company, Dulaney Investment Company, and Fort Ringling Oil and Gas Company were all located in the Sinclair Building at 512 Main Street, a newer building that

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., 119.

<sup>37</sup> *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, “Oil Pioneer Dies at 84: Richard Dulaney Turned Risks into Riches,” 28 August 1966.

<sup>38</sup> Historical Committee of the Fort Worth Petroleum Club, 119.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 39.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> *Morrison & Fourmy's Fort Worth, Texas, City Directory*, 1929.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Dulaney also owned.<sup>44</sup> By 1938 Dulaney's businesses had once again relocated to the Petroleum Building where they remained into the 1940s.<sup>45</sup>

In 1945 the Life Insurance Company of America purchased the building, and renamed it the Life of America Building. Troy Post and Hubert Foster organized the Life Insurance Company of America in 1945 and purchased the Petroleum Building through the sale of capital stock of Dulaney Investment Corporation.<sup>46</sup> The Fort Worth-based company advertised itself as "writers of life, health, accident and polio insurance," with "operations confined to Texas."<sup>47</sup> The company acquired American Fidelity in 1947 and by 1951 was listed as having \$1,430,325 in admitted assets.<sup>48</sup> Though Life of America purchased the building in 1945, it was still listed as the Petroleum Building in the 1949 City Directory, with Life of America occupying the fourth floor.<sup>49</sup> The Trinity State Bank opened on the ground floor of the building, replacing long-time tenant Moreland Drug Store, as well as Foster's Camera Shop and J. E. Foster and Son Land Company.<sup>50</sup> The 1950 directory lists 210 West Sixth Street as the Life of America Building. It seems that the change of ownership had little impact on the variety of tenants. In 1950, for example Gulf Oil had expanded to occupy the seventh, eighth, and tenth through fourteenth floors. Life of America continued to occupy the fourth floor, and the remainder of the tenants were a mix of lawyers, oil producers, abstract companies, and other professionals.<sup>51</sup> The C&H Cigar Stand was still located in the lobby. By 1955, the number of tenants in the Life of America Building had decreased noticeably, as Gulf Oil had all but taken over the building, occupying the second through fourteenth floors. Aside from Gulf Oil, the only other tenants in the building were the C&H Cigar Stand and, sharing one office on the second floor, oil producers Griffith Brothers and Brothers Oil Corporation.<sup>52</sup>

Gulf Oil continued to be the primary tenant throughout the 1960s. In 1968, the Schick Investment Company purchased the building and its name changed to the Schick Building. The building underwent significant remodeling in 1969. At that time the ground floor was resurfaced, crockets removed, and cast concrete panels replaced original stone on the first floor exterior. Similar efforts to modernize buildings in downtown Fort Worth occurred during the same period. In the early 1960s, the Downtown Fort Worth Association began to examine ways to decrease the number of businesses moving their offices from downtown buildings.<sup>53</sup> The effort to "modernize" older skyscrapers was most likely a part of the effort to retain tenants or draw new tenants to the area. In 1969, the number of tenants in the Schick Building varied; Gulf Oil was no longer listed, but a number of insurance companies operated from the building. There is no indication that Schick had maintained offices in the building.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>44</sup> *Morrison & Fourmy's Fort Worth, Texas, City Directory*, 1932.

<sup>45</sup> *Morrison & Fourmy's Fort Worth, Texas, City Directory*, 1938-39.

<sup>46</sup> *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, "Downtown Site Acquired: Name Change Due Structure," 21 January 1973.

<sup>47</sup> *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, "23 Home-Owned Firms Helping City Become Insurance Center," 18 February 1951, in Vertical file No. 368: Insurance Companies, Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Fort Worth Public Library Genealogy, History, and Archives Unit.

<sup>48</sup> *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, "23 Home-Owned Firms Helping City Become Insurance Center," 18 February 1951.

<sup>49</sup> *Morrison & Fourmy's Fort Worth, Texas, City Directory*, 1949

<sup>50</sup> *Fort Worth*, "Trinity Bank: New Quarters to Be Ready Oct. 1" (August 1949), 26.

<sup>51</sup> *Morrison & Fourmy's Fort Worth, Texas, City Directory*, 1950

<sup>52</sup> *Morrison & Fourmy's Fort Worth, Texas, City Directory*, 1955

<sup>53</sup> *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, "Six Points Outlined: Downtown Progress Plans Given Counsel," 29 July 1960, in Vertical file No. 711.06: Downtown Fort Worth Association, Fort Worth Public Library Genealogy, History, and Archives Unit.

<sup>54</sup> *Polk's Fort Worth, Texas, City Directory*, 1969

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Schick owned the Petroleum Building for approximately six years. In 1973, Finevest Services, Inc., of New York acquired Houston General Insurance Group, one of the building's primary tenants.<sup>55</sup> The Petroleum Building was "the only real property involved in the purchase of the insurance group...from Schick Investment Company."<sup>56</sup> After the purchase, the building was renamed the Finevest Building. The former Petroleum Building continued to function as an office building. As of 1998, the building was known as the Executive Plaza Building.<sup>57</sup> The current owner, XTO Energy, purchased the building in 2005, and in 2006 began efforts to restore the building to its original appearance. Cast concrete base panels installed in the 1960s were removed, and natural stone panels put in their place to replicate the original stone base. Decorative iron grates, replicated from historic photos of the building, were re-installed below first floor windows. Fixed metal windows installed in the upper floors in 1969 were removed, and replacement windows were installed throughout the building using double-hung wood sash with exterior aluminum cladding and clear glazed glass. The awning over the Sixth Street entrance was reclad in copper to represent its original design. Photos taken circa 1950 depict the building with awnings over the first floor windows and entrances. A photo in the 1927 city directory indicates that the awnings were not present, and not part of the building's original construction. As such, the awnings were not included as part of the recent restoration effort.

Since the building continues to be used as a professional office building, it maintains its historic association with the business community of Fort Worth. Throughout its historic period, the building and its tenants reflected the pattern of growth and prominence of several aspects of Fort Worth's business community. The early association with the oil industry continued throughout the building's historic period; the presence of banking and financial institutions as tenants and the building's purchase by Life of Insurance Company of America reflect the growth of those facets of Fort Worth's economy and commercial growth.

### Wyatt C. Hedrick

Wyatt C. Hedrick, architect of the Petroleum Building, was born in Chatham, Virginia, on December 17, 1888. Hedrick received his professional training in Virginia, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree at Roanoke College in 1909 and an engineering degree at Washington and Lee University in 1910.<sup>58</sup> In 1913, after three years working as an engineer in Alta Vista, Virginia, the Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation of Boston hired Hedrick as a construction engineer for the company's Dallas office.<sup>59</sup> Hedrick arrived in Dallas in 1913 and by 1914 began his own construction company, which he operated until 1921 when he became a partner in the architectural firm of Sanguinet & Staats.<sup>60</sup> The architectural firm of Sanguinet & Staats was a prominent Texas firm that operated in Fort Worth and Houston from 1903 to 1926.<sup>61</sup> The firm designed numerous commercial and civic structures and is most well known for its design of large, steel-frame office buildings. Hedrick's tenure with Sanguinet & Staats undoubtedly shaped his later career and provided him with experience designing commercial buildings.

<sup>55</sup> *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, "Downtown Site Acquired: Name Change Due Structure," 21 January 1973.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>57</sup> Historic Fort Worth, Inc. Preservation Resource Center, Folder 57, "611 Throckmorton Street."

<sup>58</sup> Christopher Long, "Hedrick, Wyatt Cephas." Texas State Historical Association's *Handbook of Texas Online*. Accessed on 10 April 2008 at: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/HH/fhe51.html>.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>61</sup> Christopher Long, "Sanguinet and Staats." Texas State Historical Association's *Handbook of Texas Online*. Accessed on 10 April 2008 at: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/SS/cms1.html>.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 16

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

After working with Sanguinet & Staats for four years, Hedrick split with the firm to open his own architectural practice in 1925. The separation was brief, however, as Sanguinet and Staats retired the following year and Hedrick bought the remaining interest in their practice. Hedrick's firm operated under the name of Wyatt C. Hedrick & Company and began acquiring a number of commissions in Fort Worth and throughout Texas. In 1925, Hedrick married his second wife, Mildred Sterling.<sup>62</sup> Mildred Sterling was the daughter of Ross E. Sterling III, Texas governor from 1931 to 1932 and an organizer of the Humble Oil & Refining Company.<sup>63</sup> Hedrick and his father-in-law sometimes collaborated in business ventures, as they did in 1930 with the construction of the Hedrick-designed Sterick Building in Memphis, Tennessee.<sup>64</sup>

In the 1920s and early 1930s, Hedrick designed a number of buildings in Fort Worth, including the Medical Arts Building (1926), the Worth Theatre (1927, with Alfred C. Finn), the Lone Star Gas Company Building (1929), the Hollywood Theatre (1930, with Finn), and the Texas & Pacific Terminal and Warehouse (1931).<sup>65</sup> The Petroleum Building sits adjacent to the Fort Worth Club, a building Hedrick designed while still a partner in Sanguinet & Staats.<sup>66</sup> Hedrick's work, similar to that of Sanguinet & Staats, involved a cyclical application of styles. Though he "was not committed to a particular building style"<sup>67</sup> throughout the entirety of his career, his designs tended to favor particular decorative styles in waves, and he often employed aspects of one or more styles in a single design. For instance, Hedrick's work in the mid-1930s through the 1940s tended to favor Art Deco and Zig Zag Moderne decorative motifs.

In the late 1920s, upon establishing Wyatt C. Hedrick & Company, Hedrick focused much of his attention on the design of commercial buildings, many of which featured neo-Gothic designs and are therefore classified as Commercial Gothic buildings. The Commercial Gothic style of the aforementioned Sterick Building (1930) in Memphis, Tennessee, is one such example. The Commercial Gothic skyscrapers Hedrick & Company designed are noted for their flat roofs "broken only by the repeated Gothic finials at each pier line."<sup>68</sup> Another commonality in Hedrick-designed skyscrapers is the inclusion of a penthouse, though "the elevator penthouse tucked into the back corner virtually disappears when viewed from the street level," as is the case with the Petroleum Building, Fort Worth.<sup>69</sup>

In the 1930s, Hedrick designed principally in the Zig Zag Moderne style, and some of his most well-known buildings were constructed at that time. After filing for bankruptcy in 1934, Hedrick continued working as an architectural engineer, designing the Will Rogers Memorial Center (1936, commonly referred to as Will Rogers Coliseum) and Fort Worth City Hall (1938), both in association with Elmer G. Withers.<sup>70</sup> In 1949, Hedrick formed the Wyatt C. Hedrick Engineering Corporation, with general offices in Houston.<sup>71</sup> That same year Hedrick completed the Shamrock Hotel in Houston, one of his best known designs.<sup>72</sup> Hedrick enjoyed continued success throughout the 1950s, so much so that "in 1959 he was

<sup>62</sup> Long, "Hedrick, Wyatt Cephas."

<sup>63</sup> *Dallas Morning News*, "Former Governor, Ross Sterling III," 25 September 1948; also *Dallas Morning News*, "Fort Worth Rites Set for Architect Wyatt C. Hedrick," 7 May 1964.

<sup>64</sup> Michael Finger, "Big Empties." *The Memphis Flyer*, 4 December 1997.

<sup>65</sup> Long, "Hedrick, Wyatt Cephas."

<sup>66</sup> Gaile Robinson, "Forgotten Master," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, 10 March 2002.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>68</sup> Jay C. Henry, *Architecture in Texas: 1895-1945* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993), 137.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>70</sup> *Dallas Morning News*, "Fort Worth Architect Goes Into Bankruptcy," 11 January 1934; Long, "Hedrick, Wyatt Cephas."

<sup>71</sup> *Dallas Morning News*, "Architect Forms Engineering Firm," 8 May 1949.

<sup>72</sup> *Dallas Morning News*, "Fort Worth Rites Set for Architect Wyatt C. Hedrick," 7 May 1964.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 17

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

listed 36<sup>th</sup> among the top architects in the nation in a survey by the magazine *Architectural Forum*," as a result "of planning \$36,268,000 worth of construction during 1958."<sup>73</sup>

## Architectural Significance

The Petroleum Building is recommended eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a Commercial Gothic two-part vertical block and its design by the architectural firm of Wyatt C. Hedrick & Company. The Petroleum Building has survived nearly a century of use and adaptation as a commercial structure. The building serves as an excellent example of a commercial skyscraper constructed to support the needs of a growing community of oil-related businesses in the 1920s. The Petroleum Building embodies distinctive characteristics of a commercial skyscraper in that it features architectural ornamentation only on its two primary street-facing façades. Its two-part vertical block form enhances the application of Gothic motifs and ornamentation. The building is one of the few examples of the "Commercial Gothic" style in Fort Worth, and one of the only examples of the style in Fort Worth as designed by Wyatt Hedrick. As Hedrick is better known for his Zig Zag Moderne designs such as the Will Rogers Coliseum, the Petroleum Building is an important early example of his work independent of Sanguinet & Staats, during a time of transition for Hedrick as he began to develop his first trademark style as an independent architect.

The emphasis on the verticality of the Petroleum Building is characteristically Gothic. Gothic motifs maximizing the expression of height in commercial buildings were first employed in the early twentieth century, with a notable example being the Woolworth Building in Manhattan constructed 1911–1913 and designed by Cass Gilbert.<sup>74</sup> Despite the removal of the roofline crockets in the 1960s, the narrow pilaster strips and vertically segmented façade remain in tact and retain those elements of the building's Gothic design. The building exhibits an important and interesting application of Gothic elements on a commercial skyscraper of the 1920s as well as an architectural reminder of the prosperity of Fort Worth's oil related industries in the early twentieth century. Recent restoration efforts have restored important elements of the building's original architectural character, and the building once again reflects its historic appearance.

<sup>73</sup> *Dallas Morning News*. "Wyatt C. Hedrick, Architect Dies." 6 May 1964.

<sup>74</sup> Leland M. Roth, *American Architecture: A History* (Boulder: Westview Press, 2001), 285.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 18

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

---

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Campbell, Randolph B. *Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Dallas Morning News*. "Fort Worth Architect Goes Into Bankruptcy." 11 January 1934.
- Dallas Morning News*. "Former Governor, Ross Sterling III." 25 September 1948.
- Dallas Morning News*. "Architect Forms Engineering Firm." 8 May 1949.
- Dallas Morning News*. "Wyatt C. Hedrick, Architect Dies." 6 May 1964.
- Dallas Morning News*. "Fort Worth Rites Set for Architect Wyatt C. Hedrick." 7 May 1964.
- Finger, Michael. "Big Empties." *The Memphis Flyer*, 4 December 1997.
- Fort Worth*. "Trinity Bank: New Quarters to Be Ready Oct. 1." August 1949.
- Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. "23 Home-Owned Firms Helping City Become Insurance Center." 18 February 1951, in Vertical file No. 368: Insurance Companies, Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Fort Worth Public Library Genealogy, History, and Archives Unit.
- Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. "Six Points Outlined: Downtown Progress Plans Given Counsel." 29 July 1960, in Vertical file No. 711.06: Downtown Fort Worth Association, Fort Worth Public Library Genealogy, History, and Archives Unit.
- Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. "Oil Pioneer Dies at 84: Richard Dulaney Turned Risks Into Riches." 28 August 1966.
- Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Photo, caption "World Headquarters." 5 December 1968.
- Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, 15 December 1968.
- Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. "Downtown Site Acquired: Name Change Due Structure." 21 January 1973.
- Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Photo, caption "New Owner." 2 June 1974.
- Henry, Jay C. *Architecture in Texas: 1895-1945*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993.
- Historic Fort Worth, Inc. Preservation Resource Center, Folder 57, "611 Throckmorton Street."
- Historical Committee of the FortWorth Petroleum Club. *Oil Legends of Fort Worth*. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1993.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 19

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

- Knight, Oliver. *Fort Worth: Outpost on the Trinity*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1990.
- Long, Christopher. "Hedrick, Wyatt Cephas." Texas State Historical Association's *Handbook of Texas Online*. Electronic document, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/HH/fhe51.html>, accessed April 10, 2008.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Sanguinet and Staats." Texas State Historical Association's *Handbook of Texas Online*. Electronic document, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/SS/cms1.html>, accessed April 10, 2008.
- Longstreth, Richard. "Compositional Types in American Commercial Architecture." *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. 2, (1986), 12-23.
- Morrison & Fourmy's Fort Worth, Texas, City Directory*, 1929, 1932, 1938-39, 1949, 1950, and 1955.
- Olien, Diana Davids, and Roger M. Olien. *Oil in Texas: The Gusher Age, 1895-1945*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2002.
- Pate, J'Nell. *North of the River: A Brief History of North Fort Worth*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1994.
- Polk's Fort Worth, Texas, City Directory*, 1969.
- Robinson, Gaile. "Forgotten Master." *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, 10 March 2002.
- Roth, Leland M. *American Architecture: A History*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2001.
- Selcer, Richard F. *The Fort That Became A City: An Illustrated Reconstruction of Fort Worth, Texas, 1849-1853*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1995.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Fort Worth: A Texas Original!* Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 2004.
- Tarrant Appraisal District, online records, <http://www.tad.org/Datasearch/datasearch.cfm>, accessed 4 May 2008.
- Vertical file No. 338: "Industries and Business (Fort Worth and Tarrant County)," Fort Worth Public Library Genealogy, History, and Archives Unit.
- Vertical file No. 368: "Insurance Companies (Fort Worth and Tarrant County)," Fort Worth Public Library Genealogy, History, and Archives Unit.
- Vertical file No. 665.5: "Petroleum Industry and Trade," Fort Worth Public Library Genealogy, History, and Archives Unit.
- Vertical file No. 711.06: "Downtown Fort Worth Association," Fort Worth Public Library Genealogy, History, and Archives Unit.

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Petroleum Building, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Page 4

---

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

---

**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** 0.4589 acres

<b>UTM REFERENCES</b>	<u><b>Zone</b></u>	<u><b>Easting</b></u>	<u><b>Northing</b></u>
	14	656284	3625113

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** Fort Worth Original Town Block 98, Lot 5R1

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** The boundary description conforms to the original property lines of the city lots upon which the building sits.

---

**11. FORM PREPARED BY** (with assistance from Rachel Leibowitz, Historian, Texas Historical Commission)

---

**NAME/TITLE:** Jessica Forbes, Architectural Historian; and Marsha Prior, Architectural Historian

**ORGANIZATION:** Geo-Marine, Inc.

**DATE:** September 2008

**STREET & NUMBER:** 2201 K Avenue, Suite A-2

**TELEPHONE:** (972) 423-5480

**CITY OR TOWN:** Plano

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 75074

---

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

---

**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** (see continuation sheet Map-20 through Map-21)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-31 through Photo-32)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheets Figure-22 through Figure-30)

---

**PROPERTY OWNER**

---

**NAME:** Keith Hutton, CEO, XTO Energy

**STREET & NUMBER:** 810 Houston Street

**TELEPHONE:** (817) 885-2889

**CITY OR TOWN:** Fort Worth

**STATE:** Texas

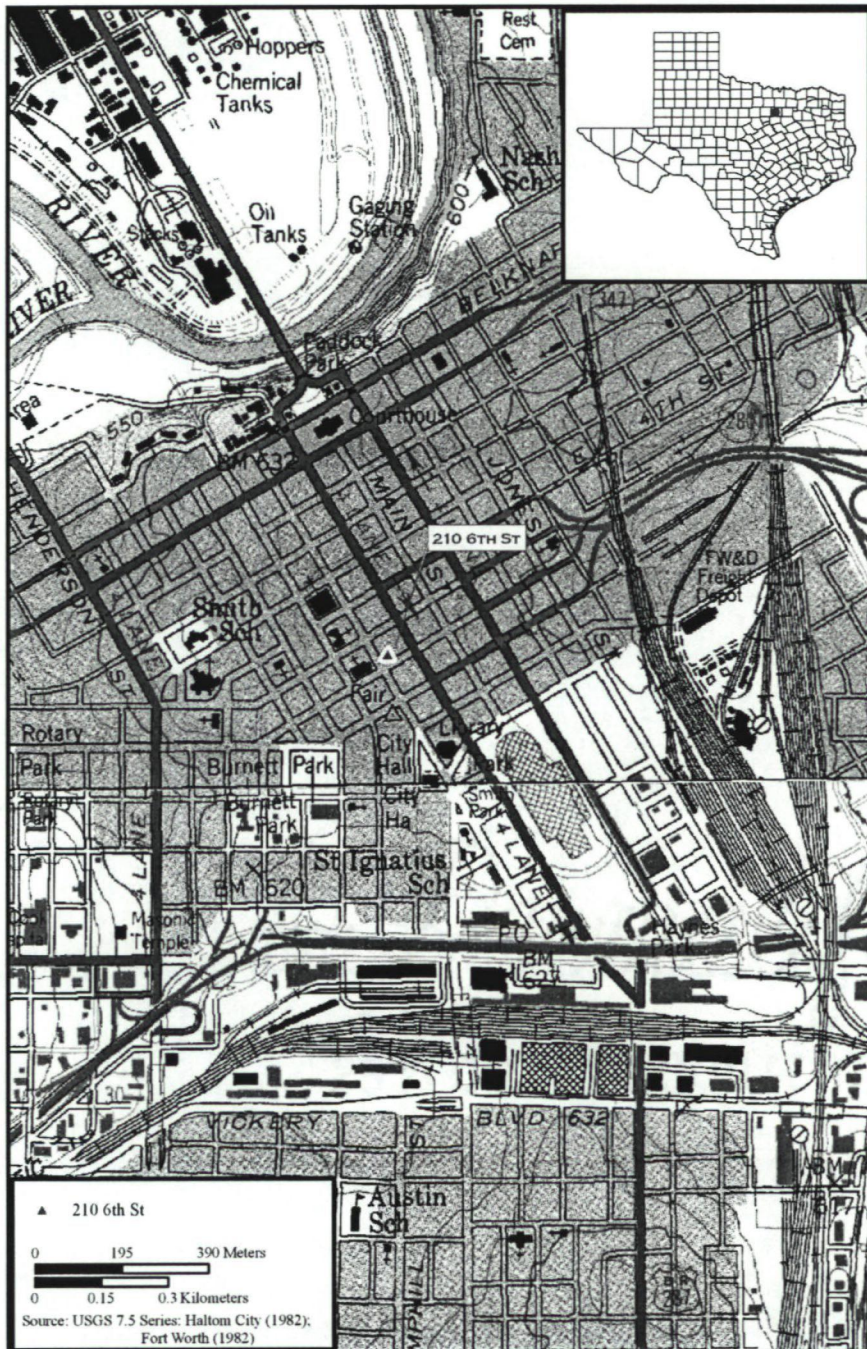
**ZIP CODE:** 76102-6298

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 20

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas



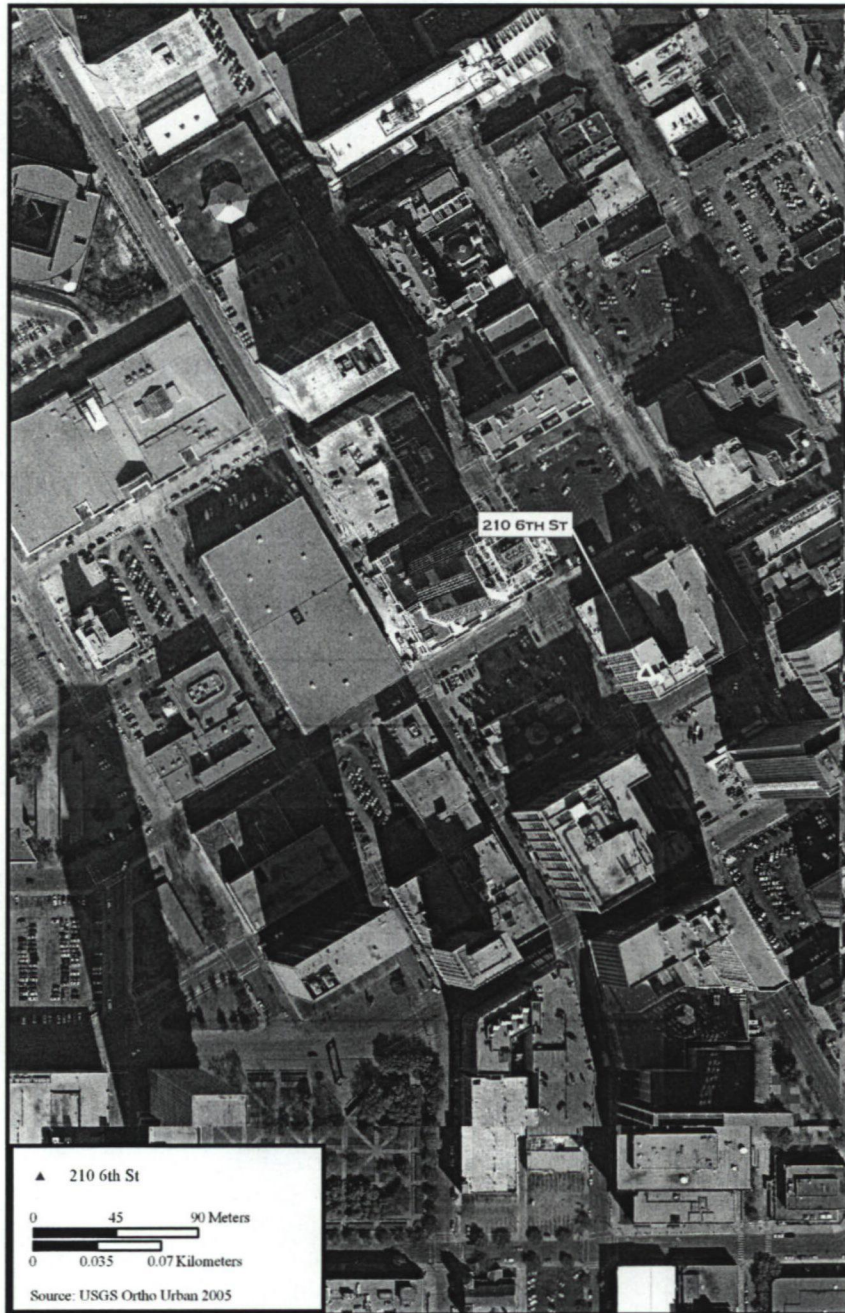
Map 1: Location of Petroleum Building, 210 West Sixth Street, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 21

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas



**Map 2:** Aerial photo of Petroleum Building, 210 West Sixth Street, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 22

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas



**Figure 1:** Interior, first floor lobby; looking southeast. Jessica Forbes, photographer, May 2008.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 23

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

---



**Figure 2:** Interior, first floor lobby; looking south. Jessica Forbes, photographer, May 2008.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 24

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

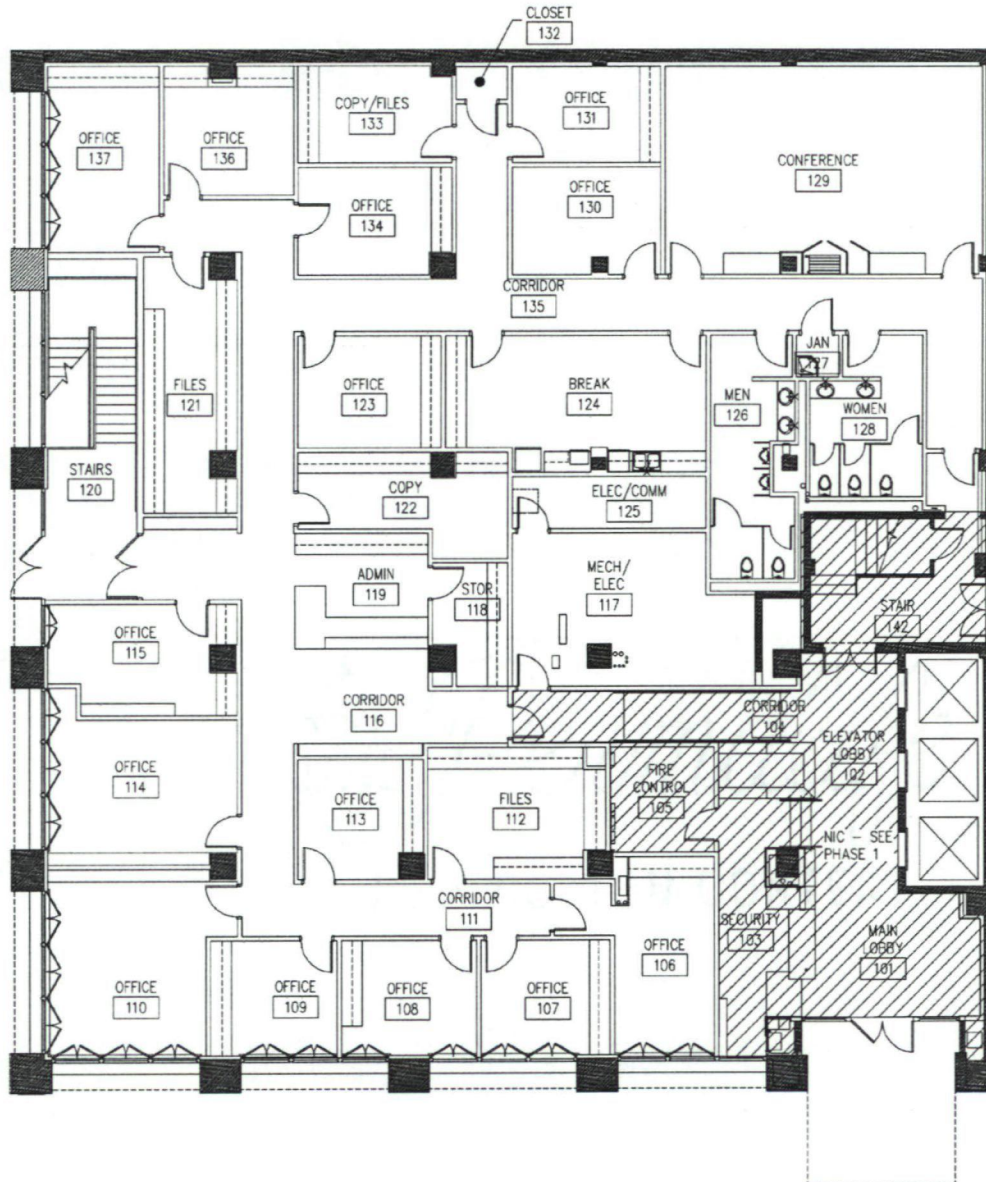


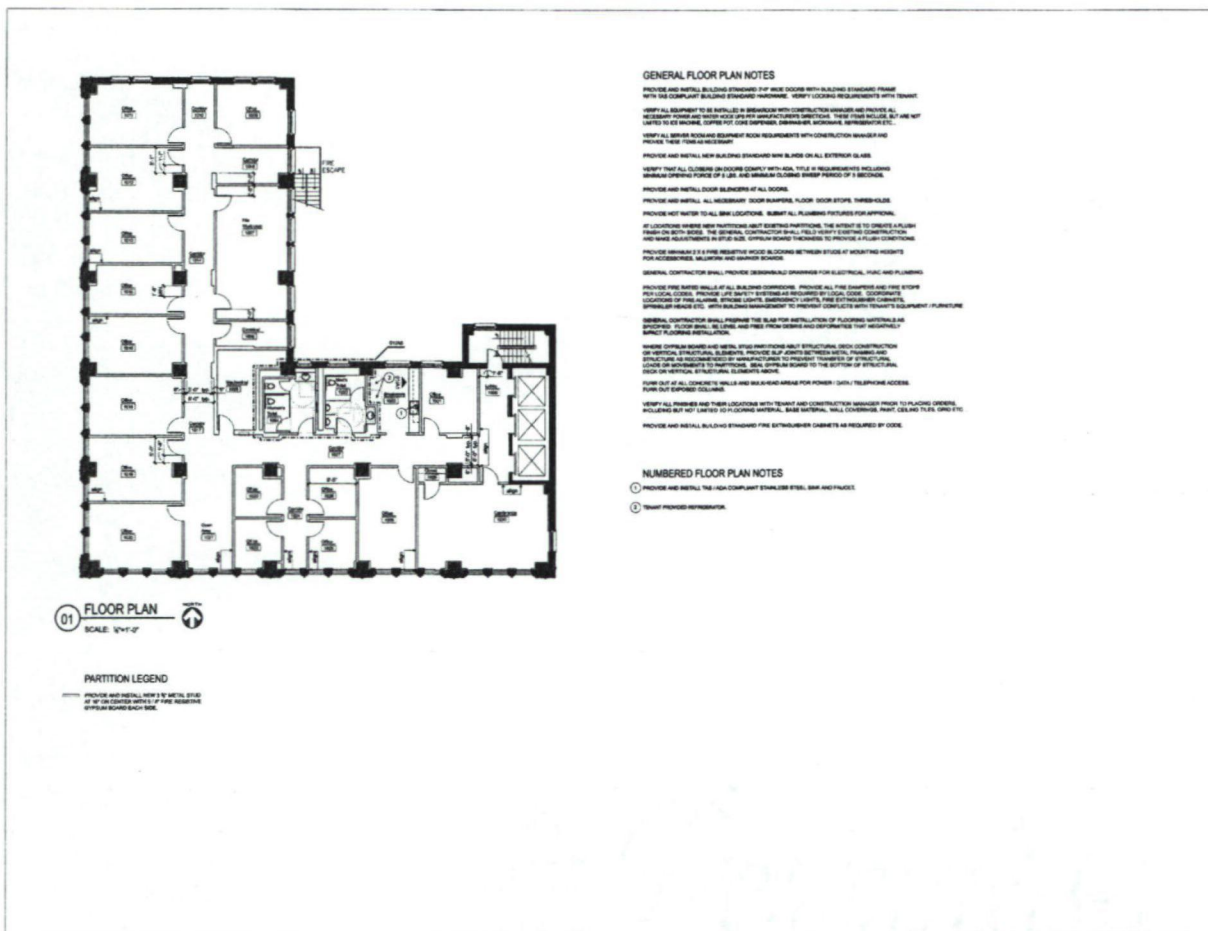
Figure 3: Petroleum Building, First Floor Plan [No title block]. Provided by XTO Energy, 2009.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 25

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas



INTERIOR FINISH OUT FOR:  
**XTO ENERGY**  
TENTH FLOOR  
PETROLEUM BUILDING  
210 West 6th Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

CONSULTANTS

**Phillips Interiors**  
1216 Glen Lane  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107  
tel: 817.736.3196  
fax: 817.763.5506  
jphillipsinteriors@earthlink.net

LINDA PHILLIPS HISE  
Interior Designer

ISSUES  
ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION  
DECEMBER 26, 2007

---

REVISIONS

---

PROJECT NUMBER  
0709.06

SHEET NUMBER  
**A2**  
OF 7A

**Figure 4:** "Interior Finish Out for XTO Energy, Tenth Floor, Petroleum Building." Phillips Interiors, Fort Worth, Texas. Issued for Construction December 26, 2007. Provided by XTO Energy

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 26

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas



**Figure 5:** Interior, upper floor office space; looking south-southeast. Jessica Forbes, photographer, May 2008.

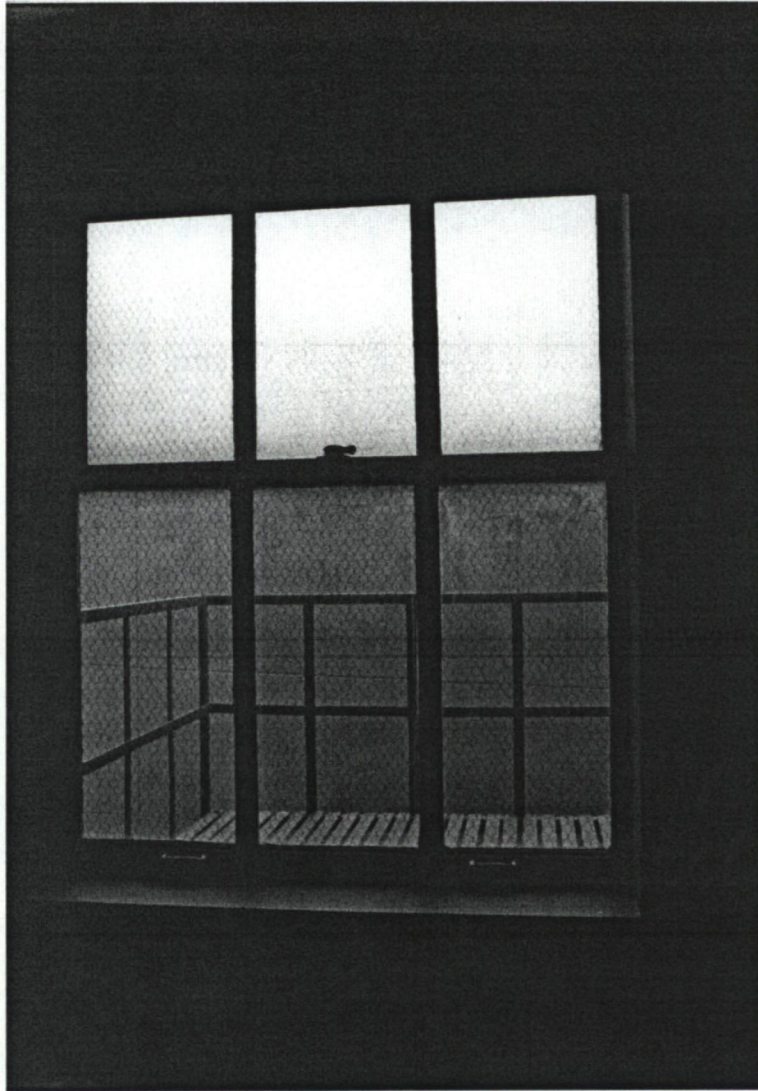
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 27

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

---



**Figure 6:** Interior, window at fire escape corridor; looking east. Jessica Forbes, photographer, May 2008.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 28

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas



**Figure 7:** Petroleum Building, 1927.  
Image in *Morrison & Fourmy's Fort Worth, Texas  
City Directory, 1927.*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 29

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

---



**Figure 8:** Petroleum Building, 1968.  
Image in *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, 15 December 1968.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 30

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas



**Figure 9:** Petroleum Building, 1974.  
Image in *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, 2 June 1974.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 31

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

## PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Item numbers 1-5 are the same for all photographs:

1. 210 West Sixth Street
2. Fort Worth, Texas
3. Jessica Forbes, Photographer
4. May 2008
5. Geo-Marine, Inc.

Item numbers 6 and 7 are listed below for each photograph.

6. Oblique view, south and west elevations; looking northeast
7. Photo 1
  
6. Oblique view, west and north elevations; looking southeast
7. Photo 2
  
6. West elevation, first floor; looking northeast
7. Photo 3
  
6. West elevation, first floor; looking east
7. Photo 4
  
6. West elevation, roofline detail; looking northeast
7. Photo 5
  
6. West elevation, detail (stone sculpture), looking east
7. Photo 6
  
6. West elevation, detail (stone sculpture), looking east
7. Photo 7
  
6. West elevation, detail (windows and spandrel panels), looking east
7. Photo 8
  
6. North elevation; looking south
7. Photo 9
  
6. West and north elevations; looking southeast
7. Photo 10

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 32

Petroleum Building  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

---

6. East and south elevations; looking northwest
7. Photo 11
  
6. East and south elevations, looking northwest
7. Photo 12
  
6. South elevation, detail, looking north
7. Photo 13
  
6. South elevation, looking north
7. Photo 14
  
6. South elevation, first floor exterior, looking east-northeast
7. Photo 15
  
6. South elevation, window, looking northwest
7. Photo 16
  
6. South elevation, detail, looking north
7. Photo 17
  
6. South elevation, roofline detail; looking north
7. Photo 18
  
6. South elevation, window, looking north
7. Photo 19
  
6. South elevation, roofline and window detail; looking north
7. Photo 20

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Petroleum Building

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Tarrant

DATE RECEIVED: 10/23/09      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/10/09  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/25/09      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/06/09  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000982

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    12.3.09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

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.



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 1

3334577\_3334577-R01-019.2

75DCE\*3334577\_3334577-R01-019.2.ppm



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 2

3334577\_3334577-R01-012.2

75DC@-3334577\_3334577-R01-012.2.ppm



W 6th

BUS LANE

ONE WAY

Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 3

3334577\_3334577-R01-018.2

75DC@"3334577\_3334577-R01-018.2.ppm



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 4

3334577\_3334577-R01-014.2

75DC@3334577\_3334577-R01-014.2.PPM



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 5

3334577\_3334577-R01-040.2

75DC@3334577\_3334577-R01-040.2.PPM



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 6

3334577\_3334577-R01-001.2

75DCE\*3334577\_3334577-R01-001.2.ppm



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 7

3334577\_3334577-R01-009.2

75DC0"3334577\_3334577-R01-009.2.PPM



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 8

3334577\_3334577-R01-008.2

75DC@"3334577\_3334577-R01-008.2.PPM



THE POUR HOUSE  
Sports Hall

SUNRISE

HUSH

Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 9

3334577\_3334577-R01-015.2

75DCE\*3334577\_3334577-R01-015.2.ppm



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 10

3334577\_3334577-R01-013.2

75D00@3334577\_3334577-R01-013.2.ppm



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 11

3473377\_3473377-R01-001.1 77CD@"3473377\_3473377-R01-001.1.ppm



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 12

3334577\_3334577-R01-035.2

75DCE"3334577\_3334577-R01-035.2.PPM



CLEARANCE 8 FT. 7 IN.





Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 14

3334577\_3334577-R01-053.2

75DC@"3334577\_3334577-R01-053.2.ppm



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 15

3334577\_3334577-R01-004.2

75DCE"3334577\_3334577-R01-004.2.ppm



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 16

3334577\_3334577-R01-002.2

75DCE\*3334577\_3334577-R01-002.2.PPM



RANGE 6 FT. 7 IN.

Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 17

3334577\_3334577-R01-003.2

75DC@-3334577\_3334577-R01-003.2.PPM



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 18

3334577\_3334577-R01-006.2

75008\*3334577\_3334577-R01-006.2.ppm



NO  
STOPPING  
OR  
STANDING



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 19

3334577\_3334577-R01-033.2

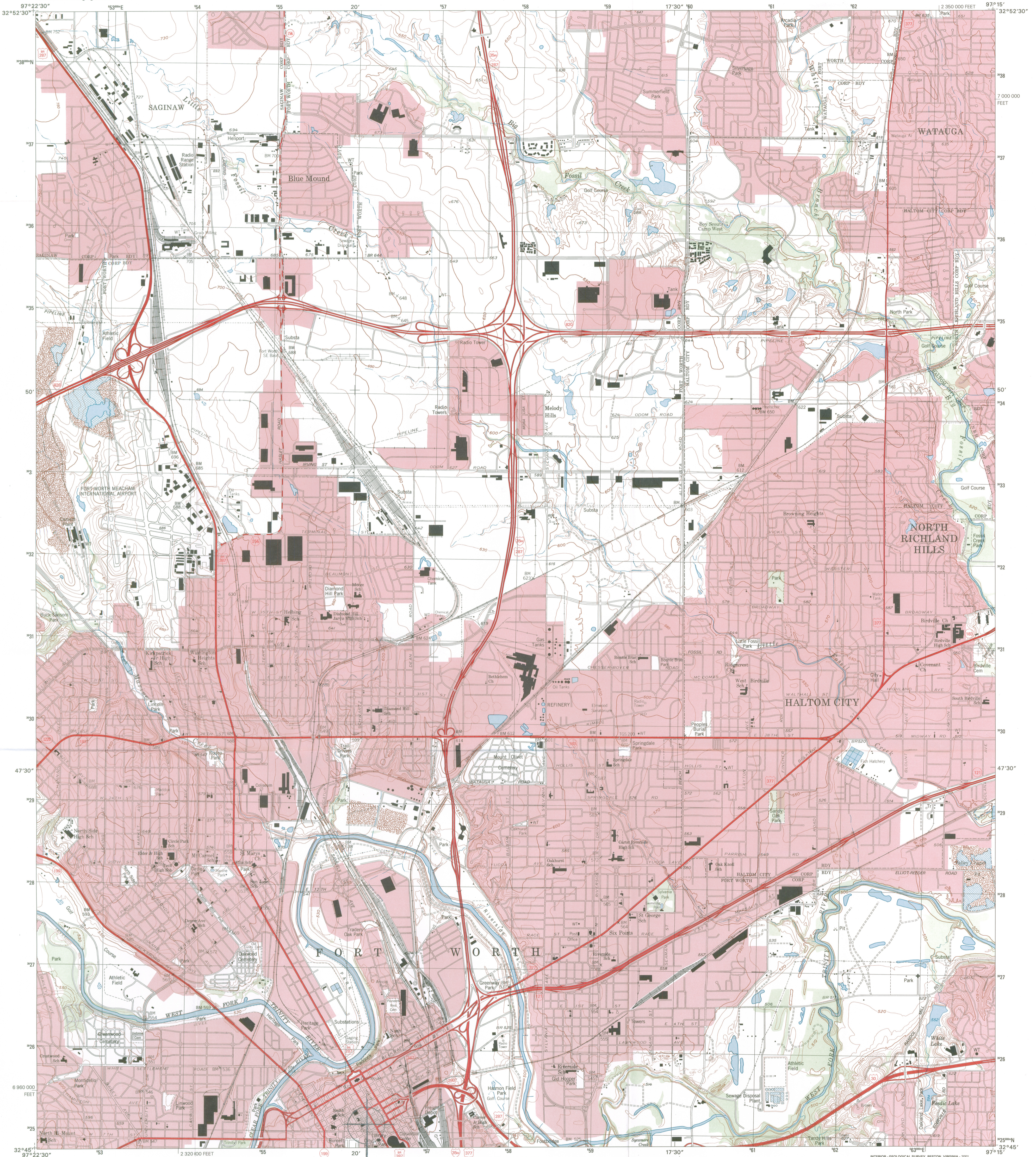
75DCE-3334577\_3334577-R01-033.2.PPM



Petroleum Building  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photo 20

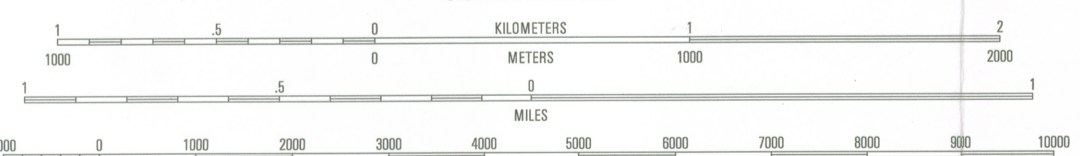
3334577\_3334577-R01-005.2

75DCE~3334577\_3334577-R01-005.2.PPM



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topography compiled 1952. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1995 and other sources. Survey control current as of 1955. Boundaries current as of 2000.  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 14 10 000-foot ticks: Texas Coordinate System of 1983 (north central zone).  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.  
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled inundation.  
Houses of worship, schools, and other labeled buildings verified 1955.

VTM  
ZONE 14  
3625284 E  
3625113 N  
PETROLEUM BUILDING  
210 W. 6TH STREET  
FORT WORTH, TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES  
3297-431

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway hard surface .....  
Secondary highway hard surface .....  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface .....  
Unimproved road .....

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

HALTOM CITY, TX  
1995

NIMA 6549 IV SE-SERIES V882



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

*real places telling real stories*

MEMORANDUM



TO: Linda McClelland  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Rachel Leibowitz, Historian  
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Petroleum Building  
210 West Sixth Street  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

DATE: October 15, 2009

The following materials are submitted regarding [address]:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
<input type="checkbox"/>	___ Resubmitted nomination
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Property nomination form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS maps
<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

COMMENTS:

- \_\_\_ SHPO requests substantive review
- \_\_\_ The enclosed owner objections (do \_\_\_) (do not \_\_\_) constitute a majority of property owners
- \_\_\_ Other:

