

**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 Historic Homes of Ardmore Petroleum Executives TR

and or common

2. Location

street & number (Continuation sheet) N/A not for publication

city, town Ardmore N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Carter code 19

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<u>N/A</u> 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 (Continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Carter County Courthouse

city, town Ardmore state Oklahoma 73401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The two properties nominated in the Historic Homes of Ardmore Petroleum Executives were both built in 1915 by co-founders of the Healdton Oil Field discovery well, Edward Galt and Roy M. Johnson. Both were constructed two years after the Healdton Oil Field was opened and reflect the status and wealth of successful petroleum entrepreneurs. Although Galt lived in his home for only about eight years, he sold it to one of his business partners, Wirt Franklin, who was also instrumental in the development of the Healdton Field and first President of the Independent Petroleum Producers Association of America.

The two homes have contrasting architectural features. The Galt/Franklin Home is a stately, two-story, stucco-finished building composed of a large central section with flanking two-story wings. The predominantly horizontal appearance with broad hipped roof and widely overhanging eaves give the home a distinctive character. The Johnson Home characteristics include stone wall finish, red-tiled roof, arched openings, and partially enclosed porches and patios set off by arcades.

The historic and architectural integrity of both properties has remained intact for almost 70 years. Both continue as single-family residences the purpose for which they were constructed and minimal alterations include a few window replacements.

The two homes are situated on their original lots in the Dornick Hills Addition to Ardmore and are located in the same block of Country Club Road (see sketch map). The two properties included in the Historic Homes of Ardmore Petroleum Executives are:

- (1) Galt/Franklin Home (1915)
- (2) Johnson Home (1915)

Although Galt moved in the early 1920s from his 1915 home to a residence on G Street in Ardmore, he achieved his early accomplishments as a petroleum executive while living in the nominated property. He later moved to Texas in 1940. Franklin and Johnson both lived the remaining years of their careers in their respective homes, Franklin from the early 1920s until his death in 1962 and Johnson from 1915 until his death in 1960. Both properties are currently owned by the Otey Johnson Trust. Otey was Roy Johnson's son.

The two dwellings are the only remaining historic properties still intact in Ardmore associated with Franklin, Galt, and Johnson. Galt's later home on G Street in Ardmore, the office of the Crystal Oil Company, and Johnson's early home from 1907 to 1915 have been significantly altered.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1915-1935 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

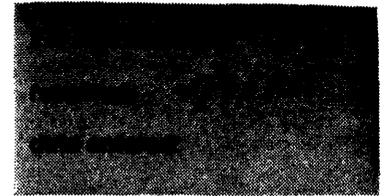
The Historic Homes of Ardmore Petroleum Executives a thematic nomination, are significant because: (1) their historic association with Edward Galt, Wirt Franklin, and Roy M. Johnson, co-founders of the Crystal Oil Company, the first company to secure leases and drill the first well in 1913 in the Healdton Oil Field, which helped Oklahoma become the leading producer of crude oil in the United States during the years 1914 through 1916, and (2) the two homes are the best remaining examples of Richardsonian Romanesque (Johnson Home) and Neo-Classical (Galt/Franklin Home) vocabulary applied to dwellings in Ardmore.

Although oil was discovered near Ardmore in 1905, there was no serious production until 1913 when Edward Galt, Wirt Franklin, and Roy M. Johnson formed the Plains Development Company which secured leases on approximately 7,000 acres of land where traces of oil had been found. Securing a knowledgeable driller, the two young Ardmore attorneys (Galt and Franklin) and editor of the local newspaper, Ardmore Statesman, (Johnson) borrowed capital and established a new corporation, the Crystal Oil Company. Franklin served as president, Galt as secretary, and Johnson as treasurer. Their drilling venture was successful because in August of 1913, the Mary McClure No. 1 was brought in with a daily output of 300 barrels. The McClure "gusher" touched off a rush to the Ardmore vicinity and the Healdton Oil Field was on the map. Sun Oil Company quickly purchased a thousand acres from the Crystal Oil Company and plans were made to connect the Healdton Field to Gulf Coast refineries. By the end of 1913, there were fourteen wells in the field and production for December of that year was estimated at 20,000 barrels of crude. The Healdton Oil Field continued to be one of the major pools of Oklahoma during the 1920s. Its peak production of 95,000 barrels of crude per day in 1916 helped Oklahoma to become the leading producer of oil in the United States during the years 1914 through 1916.

Approximately two years after the discovery well in the Healdton Field was drilled under the auspices of the Crystal Oil Company, Edward Galt and Roy Johnson were able to finance the construction of new homes, adjacent to one another, in the Dornick Hills Addition of Ardmore. Galt and Johnson, partners in the first Healdton Field petroleum company and co-founders of the discovery well, had quickly accumulated sufficient capital to build the massive, ornate mansions included in this nomination.

Although Edward Galt lived in the Galt/Franklin Home for only about seven or eight years, his historic association with the property included his tenure as secretary for the Crystal Oil Company, the first such enterprise in the Healdton Field, and founding member of the Ardmore Independent Oil Producers Association.

Franklin's historic association with the nominated property spanned the most productive years of his career as a petroleum executive, political figure, and civic leader from the early 1920s until 1935. He organized the Wirt Franklin Petroleum Corporation in 1927 of which he served as president until 1937. He was first president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (I.P.A.A.) serving from 1929 until 1935. He was appointed as life member of the Board of

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Significance

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Directors of the American Petroleum Institute and Kansas-Oklahoma Division of the Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association. During World War II, he served as Director of Production for District Two (Fifteen states) for the Petroleum Administration for the War and also as special assistant to the deputy administrator in 1944. In 1932, he was an unsuccessful candidate for the office of United States Senator from Oklahoma. That same year, he was appointed to the Resolutions Committee of the Republican National Convention where he lobbied for a plank outlining a tariff on foreign oil. He was also a principal figure in the development of the first state law regulating conservation in the Oklahoma petroleum industry. In 1961, one year before his death, Franklin received the first Oklahoma Petroleum Council's "Outstanding Oklahoma Oil Man Award."

Johnson lived in the other mansion from the time of its construction in 1915 until his death in 1960. During the period from 1915 to 1935, Johnson served as treasurer for the Crystal Oil Company, the first such enterprise in the Healdton Oil Field; County Commissioner of Carter County; a member of the first Oklahoma Highway Commission; Board of Directors of the Ardmore National Bank; Board of Directors of the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce; and helped organize the Ardmore Rotary Club.

The Johnson Home embodies simplified Richardsonian Romanesque vocabulary. Characteristic of this style is the rock-faced coursed ashlar wall finish, decorative flashing ridge, semielliptical arched entry with stone voussour and key. These windows have a definite "Prairie" appearance of feeling. Richardsonian round arches supported by smooth columns in the partially enclosed rear porch. Additional decorative elements include round arched lunette-type windows in rear, balustraded deck and porch, French-type doors with sidelights, and Spanish red tile roof.

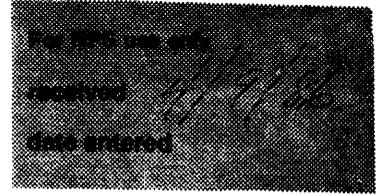
The Galt/Franklin Home is stylized with several Neo-Classical elements as well as featuring several Prairie characteristics. Classical decorative elements include four wood columns and four wood wall pilasters flanking the front entrance. The columns have fluted shafts and unadorned Tuscan-like capitals. They support an entablature which is highlighted with scroll-like brackets above each capital and dentils along the projecting cornice. Behind each column are wood wall pilasters with fluted shafts. Separating the east wall openings are six wood wall pilasters with fluted shafts and unadorned Tuscan-like capitals. Prairie elements include the low-pitch hip roof with projecting eaves and stucco wall finish.

Both the Galt/Franklin Home and the Johnson Home were completed in 1915 and have remained single-family dwellings for more than 70 years. The Galt Family lived in the property at 400 Country Club Road from 1915 until the early 1920s when they moved to another home on G Street in Ardmore. Wirt Franklin, Galt's partner in the Crystal Oil Company, purchased the property from Galt and resided there until his death in 1962. The Johnson Family resided in the property on Country Club Road from the date of its construction in 1915 until the time of Johnson's death in 1960. Both properties are currently owned and maintained by the Otey Johnson Estate. Otey, one of Roy's two children, had lived in the Johnson Home from 1960 until August of 1984, the time of his death.

The two properties have retained both their historic and architectural integrity and stand as reminders of the historic significance of Edward Galt, Wirt Franklin, and Roy M. Johnson; all of whom were founders and developers of the Healdton Oil Field, one of Oklahoma's richest petroleum discoveries.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Historic Homes of Ardmore Petroleum Executives TR
State Carter County, OKLAHOMA

Substantive Review

Cover Returns

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Galt-Franklin Home

for Keeper
Attest

Date/Signature
William B. Bushong 5/22/86

2. Johnson Home

for Keeper
Attest

William B. Bushong 5/22/86

3.

Keeper

Attest

4.

Keeper

Attest

5.

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

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Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest