

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Harris County (Job #37888)

Location: San Jacinto Street entrance to refinery, Baytown

HUMBLE OIL & REFINING COMPANY*

ROSS S. STERLING ENTERED THE OIL BUSINESS IN 1909,
WHEN HE INVESTED IN THE HUMBLE OIL FIELD NORTH OF
HOUSTON. TWO YEARS LATER HE FORMED THE HUMBLE OIL
COMPANY WITH FIVE PARTNERS: WALTER W. FONDREN, CHARLES
B. GODDARD, WILLIAM STAMPS FARISH, ROBERT LEE BLAFFER,
AND HARRY CAROTHERS WIESS. STERLING'S BROTHER, FRANK,
BECAME A COMPANY DIRECTOR IN 1914.

IN 1917 THE COMPANY OBTAINED A STATE CHARTER UNDER
THE NAME HUMBLE OIL & REFINING COMPANY. IN ORDER
TO FINANCE THE BUILDING OF A REFINERY, FIFTY PERCENT
OF THE COMPANY STOCK WAS SOLD TO STANDARD OIL OF
NEW JERSEY. THE FIRST OIL WAS PUMPED INTO A STILL
AT THE NEW REFINERY ON MAY 11, 1920.

AS THE COMPANY EXPANDED AND EMPLOYED MORE PEOPLE,
A TOWN GREW UP AROUND THE REFINERY. THE COMPANY
PROVIDED LOW-INTEREST HOME LOANS TO ITS EMPLOYEES.
BY THE 1930s RESEARCH WAS BEING CONDUCTED AT THE
BAYTOWN REFINERY, RESULTING IN THE PRODUCTION OF VITAL
PRODUCTS FOR THE U.S. WAR EFFORT DURING WORLD WAR II.

THE POST-WAR YEARS SAW ADDITIONAL EXPANSION AT
THE REFINERY, AND THE COMPANY WAS MERGED WITH
STANDARD OIL OF NEW JERSEY IN 1959. THE HUMBLE NAME
WAS USED UNTIL 1972, WHEN STANDARD OIL COMPANY (NJ)
BECAME KNOWN AS EXXON CORPORATION. **

(1989) ***

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

Texas Historical Commission
State Marker Program
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

REC'D
6-24-88

Title of Marker (subject to revision by THC staff)		County	
Humble Oil and Refining Company		Harris	
Marker Location (street address and town, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map)			
San Jacinto St. Refinery Entrance Spur 330 (Decker Dr.) Baytown			
Distance and direction of subject from marker site		If not on post, type of surface to which marker will be attached (wood, stone, etc.)	
On Site		Requesting Post	
Owner of Marker Site		Address City, Zip	
att: Ron Embry Exxon Company U.S.A.		P.O. Box 3950 Baytown, Texas 77522	
Sponsor of Marker		Address City, Zip	
Bay Area Heritage Society		P.O. Box 4161 Baytown, Texas 77522	
Signature of County Chairman		Address City, Zip	
Al Davis		929 WAXMYRTLE HOUSTON 77079	
Person to whom marker is to be shipped*		Address City, Zip Telephone (required)	
Ron Embry		Exxon Company U.S.A. Decker Dr. Baytown 713-425-3333	

*If marker is to be placed on highway right-of-way, it will be shipped to your district highway engineer.

Please consult the back of this page for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Approval of the application and narrative *must* be obtained from the county historical commission, as indicated by the county chairman's signature on this form, before forwarding the material to the Texas Historical Commission. Please *do not* send payment if ordering subject or building markers; funds will be requested once the application has been approved by the State Marker Committee. Sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax-exempt organization. Applicants may order a marker with a socket to attach to their own post; however, the cost is the same as a marker furnished with a foundry post.

SUBJECT MARKERS

- ☐ 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) \$225
- ☒ 27" x 42" subject marker with post \$650
- ☐ 27" x 42" subject marker without post \$600
- ☐ 18" x 28" subject marker with post \$375
- ☐ 18" x 28" subject marker without post \$300
- ☐ I (We) request that RTHL designation be considered for this marker.
(Please see signature line below)

BUILDING MARKERS

- ☐ 16" x 12" building marker with post \$350
- ☐ 16" x 12" building marker without post \$300

Applications for building markers will automatically be considered for the RTHL designation. Please read carefully Texas Marker Policies 13 through 18, and indicate that you have done so by signing below.

Signature of owner

PAPERWEIGHTS

Please indicate quantity desired.

+ 1 for Harris Co.

- (ONE) 1 3" x 4" plastic paperweight
mounted with replica of marker \$90
Allow two months from completion of marker
for receipt of paperweight.

- Medallion paperweight \$40
Allows four lines of engraving; please indicate desired wording.

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Please indicate quantity desired and give location(s) on form above:

- 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign \$80
*These will be shipped to and placed on your town's city
limits signs by the District Highway Engineer.*

- Black and White (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
- Green and White (for interstate highways)

- 18" x 22" Historical Marker directional sign \$80
*In black and white only. For city and county roads.
Applicant must supply post and be responsible for placement.*

- With arrow pointing straight ahead
- With arrow pointing left
- With arrow pointing right

OTHER

- ☐ National Register plaque \$ 50
- ☐ 12" x 6" supplemental plate \$110
- ☐ 16" x 12" building marker plate only
(see policy #15) \$190
- ☐ Replacement medallion (see policy #15) \$110
- ☐ Bronze stars (for replacement on 1936
granite markers) \$ 25
- ☐ Bronze wreaths (for replacement on
1936 granite markers) \$ 25
- ☐ Bronze seals (for replacement on
1936 granite markers) \$ 65
- ☐ Bronze plates (for replacement on
1936 granite markers) \$185
- ☐ Certificates of commendation 50c each

HISTORY OF THE BAYTOWN REFINERY
OF
HUMBLE OIL & REFINING COMPANY
by
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INTRODUCTION

The Exxon Baytown complex is an impressive sight. It sprawls out over a total of 3,447 acres on the edge of the city of Baytown in southeast Texas, and its busy refinery docks jut out into the Houston Ship Channel. It bears little resemblance to the original refinery which was built by the directors of Humble Oil & Refining Company beginning in 1919. They chose this site because of the proximity to both their producing Goose Creek oil fields and to the Ship Channel which would provide transportation of their oil. Over the years the physical plant has undergone numerous changes as new units were added and old ones were updated. The refinery grew by leaps and bounds in the 1930s and 1940s as it operated plants manufacturing toluene, aviation gasoline, butyl rubber and butadiene. These products proved indispensable to the Allies during World War II. Today the complex consists primarily of the Exxon Company U.S.A. Baytown Refinery, and the Baytown Chemical Plant and Baytown Olefins Plant of Exxon Chemical Americas. It encompasses miles of overhead pipelines, acres of steel processing units, long, neat rows of huge metal and concrete storage tanks, and the occasional maintenance and control building. The town of Baytown which grew up around the refinery was named by the Humble directors for the network of bays in the area. *

Baytown owes much of its population and economic growth over the years to the employees who have made the community their home.

*This statement is disputed by the Handbook of Texas.

FORMATION OF HUMBLE OIL & REFINING COMPANY

The formation of Humble Oil & Refining Company is an account not just of the conception of the company but also of the men who formed it. It begins some years before incorporation in 1917. The discovery of oil at Spindletop, near Beaumont, Texas, in 1901 lured many men to the area who were eager to take advantage of opportunities in the fledgling oil industry. The founders of Humble Oil & Refining Company were typical of these early oil entrepreneurs. Through hard work, shrewd business management and seizing of opportunities, these men played important roles in the early history of oil in this area. Some of them were self-made men who arrived in Texas with little more than their enthusiasm and drive. Others became involved in the oil business as engineers, lawyers and businessmen. They were brought together through mutual business dealings over the years, and bonds of trust and friendship were formed along the way.

Two men who figured prominently in the formation of the Company were (1875-1949) Ross S. Sterling and his brother, (1869-1938) Frank Sterling. They began in the oil business indirectly in 1903 when they opened a feed store in Sour Lake, near Beaumont, and supplied grain and hay for the mules used in the oil fields. Later Ross bought several banks in nearby towns. He entered the oil business in 1909 by investing in oil properties in the Humble field, located twenty miles north of Houston. The field was situated near the small town of Humble, which had been named after a former justice of the peace of the community, Pleasant Humble. In 1911 Ross formed Humble Oil

Company with five other oilmen. They named the company after the field on which they operated. Frank Sterling became a director of Humble Oil Company in 1914. By 1917 Humble Oil Company had a daily production of 6,000 barrels. In early 1917 Ross Sterling formed the Southern Pipe Line Company. He also entered into a partnership with Harry Carothers Wiess in 1911 when they began the Ardmore Oil Company, located in southern Oklahoma. At the time of the organization of Humble Oil & Refining Company, this oil company was producing 2,000 barrels daily.¹

Another founder of Humble Oil & Refining Company was Walter W. (1877-1939) Fondren. Born in Tennessee in 1877, he came to Texas when he was seventeen years old. He roughnecked at various oil fields, and later was a rotary driller before becoming an independent driller. By 1905 he was a prosperous drilling contractor. Over the years he gradually acquired land and oil leases. Another founder, Charles B. Goddard, was born in Ohio, and came to Texas as a young man, working as a roughneck, driller, gauger and engineer. Soon after the Humble field was discovered in 1905, he began independent drilling there. Bert Broday, long associated with Humble, although never a director, was also born in Ohio, and came to Texas where he worked as a rotary driller and contract driller. He bought a part ownership of the Schultz Oil Company in 1915.²

(1881-1942)
William Stamps Farish, born in Mississippi in 1881, was a young lawyer who came to Beaumont for one of his clients interested in the oil business. He became a supervisor of wells for an oil field, and about a year after his arrival, he organized Brown-Farish Oil Company. He also entered into a

(1877-1942)
partnership with Robert Lee Blaffer in 1904, and they became successful drillers in the Humble field. Blaffer was a native of New Orleans who arrived in Beaumont just after the Spindletop discovery to buy oil for the Southern Pacific Railroad. He stayed on in the area and became an independent operator. Their partnership assets included part ownership of Schultz Oil Company. In late 1916 Blaffer and Farish, along with Harry Carothers Wiess, incorporated the Globe Refining Company at the Humble field.³

Harry Carothers Wiess, a native of Beaumont, obtained a degree in civil engineering from Princeton University in 1909. Harry's father, William Wiess, was an oilman who organized the Paraffine Oil Company in 1903, and the Reliance Oil Company in 1907. Soon after his return home, his father's ill health necessitated Harry's involvement in his father's oil business. He became the president of Reliance in 1912; when his father died in 1914, Harry became the president of Paraffine as well. By 1917⁴ these two oil companies were producing 1,750 barrels daily.

The founders shared a common problem with other small independent oil producers, in that they found it increasingly difficult to sell their oil for the prices they wanted. A few of the producers had ventured into the refining and marketing of their product to obtain better control over prices, but they lacked the capital necessary for a large-scale operation. Thus, they were dependent on the large buyers who set the prices. W. S. Farish was convinced that a merger of several independent companies into one organization would secure greater bargaining power with the larger

companies. He became the driving force in 1916 in obtaining the support of the oilmen whose business lives had already become intertwined in the past fifteen years. They reached an agreement in early 1917 to merge their interests. In March of that year the first steps toward that goal were taken when Humble Oil Company purchased the oil properties of Blaffer, Farish, Wiess and Fondren. Sterling, Farish and Wiess applied to the State of Texas in May of 1917 for a charter for the corporation which would be called Humble Oil & Refining Company.

Lobel A. Carlton and E. E. Townes, law partners in Beaumont, represented most of the various interests of these oilmen. When the Company was formed, they began handling its legal matters. The Company was chartered on June 21, 1917, and the first meeting of the Board of Directors was held on that day. The first Board consisted of nine men, and included Ross S. Sterling, Frank Sterling, William Stamps Farish, Robert Lee Blaffer, Harry Carothers Wiess, Charles B. Goddard, Lobel A. Carlton, Walter W. Fondren, and Jesse Jones. Jones was a Houston lumber dealer and real estate operator who invested in the Company. He sold his interest after six months, and Carlton's law partner, E. E. Townes, was elected to take his place on the Board of Directors in 1918. At their first meeting, the Board stated the purpose for the formation of their corporation as

The storing, transporting, buying and selling of oil, gas, salt, brine, and other mineral solutions; also the prospecting for and producing, treating, refining, reducing, and manufacturing of oil, gas, salt, brine, and other mineral solutions, and generally to exercise any and all powers and authorities conferred upon corporations organized under Chapter 24, Title 25, of the Revised Statutes of the

State of Texas, and the amendments thereto heretofore made or hereafter to be made.

The capital stock of the Company was set at \$4 million, divided into 40,000 shares with a par value of One Hundred Dollars.

By the late 1940s none of the original founders of Humble Oil & Refining Company remained with the Company. Ross S. Sterling was the first to leave. He served as the first Company President until 1922, and was Chairman of the Board of Directors until early 1925, when he sold his interests in the Company and resigned. He became active in politics in 1930, and was governor of Texas for one term, from 1931 to 1933. Harry Carothers Wiess enjoyed the longest career with the Company. He was on the Board of Directors until his death on August 26, 1948, serving as the Chairman of the Board for the last three months of his tenure. William Stamps Farish served on the Board of Directors of the Company until 1933 when he resigned to become the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Standard Oil Company (N.J.) Lobel A. Carlton, one of the attorneys for the Company, and a member of the Board of Directors, died in 1925. The other founders remained in service to the Company until their retirements.

BUILDING OF THE BAYTOWN REFINERY

The Humble directors realized that in order to realize a larger profit from their oil production they needed to enter the areas of refining and marketing. The market had changed considerably since 1910, when large customers such as industries, railroads and shipping companies were the primary customers of fuel oil. These customers required a volume output

which only a large refinery could supply. Then came the age of the automobile. Auto registrations rose sharply, from 500,000 in 1910 to 10,000,000 in 1920. The appetite of the nation for gasoline increased in proportion, and with it the age of the small refinery arrived.⁸

At the time Humble was formed, several of its founders had properties in the Goose Creek oil field, which had first been discovered in 1908. In 1918 the Company discovered a new well at this field, and this sparked interest in the area as a possible refinery site. It had the added benefit of being located on the Houston Ship Channel. In July of 1918 the Board of Directors voted to undertake the building of a refinery at Goose Creek with a crude capacity of 2,500 barrels a day. This decision was based largely on faith, for Humble had stretched itself to the limit financially since incorporation, with its optimistic expansion policies. The estimated cost of \$1.5 million to build the proposed refinery was simply not available, and so its construction was postponed until the necessary money could be raised.⁹

In the meantime, F. F. Arnim, an agent for Humble, acquired three tracts of land for the refinery site. On August 21, 1918 he purchased "1466.44 acres out of the William Scott League, known as the Beebe and Willard Tract" from the various heirs of the property by five separate Deeds for a total price of \$51,325.13. On August 21, 1918 and May 17, 1919, by two separate Deeds, Arnim purchased "Lot 5 of the Wright and Beebe Tract in William Scott Upper League," from the two owners. This property, consisting of 20 acres, was purchased for \$2,850.00. On August 19, 1918,

Arnim purchased "Lots 24 & 31 . . . in the Wright Tract of William Scott League," a total of 21.876 acres, for \$2,000.00. Arnim conveyed these three properties to Humble Oil & Refining Company by three General Warranty Deeds on May 22, 1919.¹⁰

Two other properties, acquired at about the same time by Arnim, became the dock area of the refinery. The first property, comprising 49.79 acres, consisted of "a tract of land out of the William Scott Upper League and being a part of what is known as the Blackwell Peninsula." It was purchased on August 28, 1918 for \$6,462.00. An additional 124 acres adjacent to the first property was purchased by Arnim on April 30, 1919 for \$36,600.00. Arnim conveyed both of these properties to Humble on May 22, 1919.¹¹

W. S. Farish, a founding director, made a trip to New York in late 1918 in an attempt to secure a large long-term loan to finance the building of the refinery, but the banks were not interested in what they considered a risky operation. Farish then met with Walter C. Teagle, president of Standard Oil Company (New Jersey). Teagle was interested in obtaining the dependable source of crude oil which Humble Oil & Refining Company could supply. After long negotiations between the companies, an agreement was signed on January 29, 1919. Humble increased its number of shares of capital stock to 82,000, with a par value of \$100 per share for a total capital stock value of \$8.2 million. Standard Oil purchased fifty per cent of the stock for \$17 million in cash. The Company now had the necessary capital to build the refinery at Goose Creek.¹²

Harry Wiess, a founding director and head of Humble's newly-created Refining Department, took charge of the construction and operation of the refinery. His experience in managing the Paraffine and Reliance companies was a valuable asset to him in this new endeavor. Wiess and his engineering staff were aided in the refinery construction by a small group of Jersey Standard engineers. Humble budgeted \$8 million toward the refinery and a pipeline, and wasted little time in going ahead with the project. On April 16, 1919 ground was broken at the property purchased at Goose Creek, and the building of the refinery began. It was a long, laborious process in the beginning, for the land site was a marshy, low-lying rice field surrounded by dense woods. The land had to be surveyed, cleared and drained before construction could begin. There were many obstacles, including rain for one hundred days straight, swarms of mosquitoes and flies, and poisonous snakes. The gumbo soil became slippery and sticky during the rains, and pockets of quicksand presented an added hazard. Work on the refinery docks was underway by the summer of 1919.¹³

A red-letter day was May 11, 1920 when the first oil was pumped into a still. For some years thereafter, this day was commemorated as Humble Day. The formal completion of the refinery was on April 21, 1921, to coincide with the observance of San Jacinto Day, celebrated as the day in 1836 when the Texans fought and won their battle for independence from Mexico. At completion in 1921, the refinery construction costs had increased from the projected \$1.5 million to an actual cost of \$10 million, largely due to an expansion of the original plans. It was an investment

which paid off, for the added units increased refinery capacity that year from an estimated 4,000 barrels daily to 10,000 barrels per day. By 1923 the refinery was making a profit.

14

THE GROWTH OF BAYTOWN

Soon after construction on the refinery began, the Humble Board of Directors agreed to call their plant location Baytown rather than what they considered the frivolous name of Goose Creek. A town comprised mostly of Humble employees gradually grew up around the refinery. The first employees lived in tents provided by the Company. There were four "tent cities," two for white workers, one for Mexican workers, and one for the black workers. These were followed by a two-story dormitory housing 100 men and complete with a dining room and cafeteria. By late 1920, Baytown was a community of 1,500 people housed in 176 concrete houses, wooden cottages and portable houses. Three school buildings served the educational needs of the children of the employees.

15

In 1925 Humble implemented a policy of providing home loans to its employees so they could build their own homes in Baytown. A total of 119 acres of land divided into 600 lots was dedicated to this project. The land lay southeast of the refinery and extended "from the Baytown-Goose Creek road south to the bay shore." The Company installed streets, alleys, storm and sanitary sewers, a water system and electricity. Prices for the lots ranged from \$450 to \$800, depending upon the size and location. This policy was continued in the 1930s. In 1935 Harry Wiess was given authority by the Board of Directors to purchase twenty acres of land west of Baytown

and resell it to the employees for homesites. In 1936 Wiess and Robert Blaffer were directed to turn the "undeveloped East Baytown property into lots, to be sold to employees along the same general plan heretofore in effect." Baytown gradually grew into a substantial community. In 1948, after heated debates among the townspeople of Baytown, Goose Creek and a third adjacent town of Pelly, the citizens of these three municipalities¹⁶ voted for unification into one town called Baytown.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF BAYTOWN REFINERY

The 1920s saw the beginnings of research at the Baytown Refinery. In 1922 a research program was underway, and in 1924 the Development Department was organized at the refinery. This Department was to have a significant impact on the future of the Company. Even though emphasis was placed on designing and upgrading refinery equipment, considerable work on resolving refining problems was being done. One area receiving attention was cracking crude oil hydrocarbons in order to obtain a larger percentage of gasoline. By 1926 the Company had installed twenty cracking coils in the refinery. These coils increased production of gasoline from crude oil¹⁷ by over nine percent.

The Development Department continued its research throughout the 1930s. Through its efforts new and advanced refinery equipment was installed at the refinery, the octane rating of gasoline was raised, and the quality of motor oils improved. It also began research on the manufacture of alkylate, used as a blending agent in the production of 100-

octane aviation gasoline. In 1938 the world's first commercial alkylation plant was put into operation at the Baytown Refinery. When the United States entered World War II in late 1941, the refinery was ready to meet the needs of the Allies for aviation gasoline. The Baytown Refinery led the production of the gasoline among all other refineries in the world. On December 14, 1944, Humble celebrated the manufacture of one billion gallons of aviation gasoline by the Baytown Refinery, with a "Billion Gallon Day" ceremony and a three-day open house at the refinery.

18

Another product developed by the researchers at the refinery was toluene, one of the ingredients in the explosive trinitrotoluene (TNT). Until the process of extracting nitration grade toluene from petroleum was discovered in the refinery laboratories, toluene had been produced by the coking of coal into coal tar. Humble entered into a contract with the War Department in 1940 in which it agreed to produce 30,000,000 gallons of nitration grade toluene per year. This plant, the Baytown Ordnance Works (BOW), was owned by the government and operated by refinery personnel. It was the first commercial synthetic toluene plant in the world. First shipments of toluene left the refinery on October 23, 1941, just six weeks before Pearl Harbor. Throughout the war the BOW continued to manufacture toluene, eventually doubling its original output. Major General Hubert Harmon, an American commander of the 13th Air Force during the war, stated that "every other bomb that rolls ashore, and every other round of ammunition, carries a punch that was born right here at Baytown."

19

World War II brought on a shortage of rubber, since the normal

supplies from the Far East were now cut off. A synthetic rubber called Butyl rubber was developed in the research laboratories of Standard Oil of New Jersey. Its main use was in the manufacture of inner tubes. Another product called buna rubber had also been developed, the main ingredient of which was butadiene. Humble entered into an agreement with the Defense Plant Corporation on May 18, 1942, for the manufacture of butyl rubber. Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation was the engineer-contractor for the plant construction at the Baytown Refinery, and the Company manufactured the product under the Agreement of Lease. This plant produced nearly half of the total United States production of butyl rubber in 1945. On May 23, 1942 Humble entered into another agreement with the Defense Plant Corporation for the manufacture of butadiene. The plant was also built and operated at the Baytown Refinery. At the end of the war in 1945, these contracts and those for production of 100-octane aviation gasoline and toluene were cancelled by the Defense Plant Corporation.

The years following the war were ones of expansion for the refinery. It continued to operate the Baytown Ordnance Works, which was leased from the government until 1946 when Humble purchased the plant for \$7 million. The refinery also continued the operation of the Butadiene Plant and the Butyl Rubber plant, and the Company purchased these two plants in 1955. The period immediately following the war saw the highest employment rate at the Baytown Refinery. In 1920 the number of personnel at the refinery totaled 100, as compared to a total number of employees Company-wide of 5,935. In 1946 the refinery employed 6,879 personnel, more than one-third

of the total Company employment of 17,375 for that year. Production capacity at the refinery increased correspondingly, from its modest beginnings in 1920 of 10,000 barrels per day to 200,000 barrels per day at the close of World War II. By the late 1950s capacity rose to 300,000 barrels per day. Employment at the refinery began a gradual decline beginning in the 1950s as more mechanized units came into operation and more efficient methods were utilized.²¹

Over the years, the Exxon Baytown Refinery constructed new units and made many changes and refinements to its existing facilities. In the late 1950s, product quality was improved by the building of the first hydrodesulfurization plant. In 1966 a hydrocracking unit was built to increase gasoline production. The Baytown Fuels Expansion project, completed in 1977, increased the capability of the refinery to make fuel oil products for home heating and industrial needs. The latest endeavor, the Baytown Refinery Upgrade Project, was completed in 1986, and gave the refinery greater capability to process heavier crudes into lighter gasoline and heating oil products.²²

The refinery also increased in size over the years. As the need for land at the Baytown Refinery grew, the Company acquired more parcels over the years until today there are over five hundred separate Deeds to property and a total of 3,447.7715 acres in and around the refinery. The Baytown Refinery utilizes 2,200 acres of this property, and much of the remainder is leased by Exxon Chemical Americas.²³

STRUCTURAL & ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Throughout the years, Standard Oil had been gradually accumulating more shares of stock in Humble Oil & Refining Company. It had a 72 percent stock interest by the end of 1950; by 1959 its stock interest had increased to 98.27 percent. At a meeting of the Humble Board of Directors in September of 1959, a proposal was made for a merger of their Company with Standard Oil Company (N.J.). Plans were discussed at this meeting "to merge the Carter Oil Company, Esso Standard Oil Company, Oklahoma Oil Company and Pate Oil Company into the new Humble Oil & Refining Company, with the latter corporation being the surviving Company." The purpose of this merger was to bring "the producing, refining, marketing, and marine operations of Standard Oil Company (N.J.) affiliates in the United States into one corporate entity and under unified management" The Company's Texas corporation was dissolved, and Humble Oil & Refining Company, a Delaware corporation, was created, in order to take advantage of the latter state's liberal corporation statutes. These plans were finalized and the sale was effected at a Board meeting in December of 1959.

The refinery continued to operate under the Humble name until 1972, when the shareholders of Standard Oil Company (N.J.) voted on a name change for itself and its affiliates. Standard Oil had accumulated a number of trademark names over the years, of which Humble was one. Standard began a three-year study in 1969 to choose a name which would "provide company products with a single, distinctive nationwide identity and end the

colorful but often confusing array of trademarks under which they had previously been marketed." The study resulted in the coining of the word "Exxon," and Standard Oil Company (N.J.) became known as Exxon Corporation.²⁵

The name change meant that the Baytown Refinery, for the first time since its construction began in 1919, was no longer called the Humble Refinery for the company which built it. It was now one of the refineries of Exxon Company, U.S.A., the other refineries being in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Benicia, California; Billings, Montana; and Bayway and Bayonne, New Jersey.²⁶

The Baytown Refinery had already made changes of its own in the separation of the refinery and chemical plants in the mid-1960s. A chemical division of the refinery had been formulated during World War II with the operation of the toluene plant and the synthetic rubber plants, and after the war the division grew rapidly. In 1965 the refinery and chemical plants were put under separate management, with each manager reporting to the Company's Manufacturing Division. In June of 1966 the chemical plant separated from the refinery, and was given the name of Enjay Chemical Company. Enjay leased 944 acres of refinery land for a period of 99 years for its use as an office site and chemical facilities. With the name change in 1972, the chemical facility became known as Exxon Chemical Company U.S.A., later changed in 1980 to Exxon Chemical Americas. Today, the plant consists of the Baytown Chemical Plant and the Baytown Olefins Plant, and employs a total of 1,725 personnel. The two plants manufacture

nearly seven billion pounds per year of chemical products. Many of those products are used as raw materials for consumer goods such as fabrics, home furnishings, packaging materials, adhesives and molded plastics.²⁷

CONCLUSION

The founders of the Humble Oil & Refining Company were visionaries of their time who foresaw that the building of their refinery in Baytown would be the beginning of a prosperous enterprise. Even they might be surprised at the great success of their modest beginnings in 1919, for the refinery is now one of the largest in the world. The crude capacity of 2,500 barrels a day which the founders initially planned has grown to 494,000 barrels per day in 1988. One hundred employees worked at the refinery in 1919; today, 1,780 personnel operate the refinery on a 24-hour basis. The additional 1,725 employees of the Exxon Chemical Americas' plant brings the total manpower in the Exxon Baytown complex to 3,505. It continues to impact the city of Baytown, for it employs more people than any other industry in the city. The products turned out by these employees have a far wider impact. They find their way into nearly every household in America, and many throughout the world. The founders who pooled their talents and gave substance to their dreams would be gratified at the success of their efforts today.²⁸

NOTES

1. Henrietta M. Larson and Kenneth Wiggins Porter, History of Humble Oil & Refining Company (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1959), pp. 28-30, 51-2.
2. Ibid, pp. 22-3, 35, 52.
3. Ibid, pp. 23-4, 51.
4. Ibid, pp. 26-8, 51.
5. E. E. Townes, "How The Company Was Organized," The Humble Way, May-June 1957, p. 4; and Larson & Porter, pp. 50, 54-5.
6. Townes; and Minutes of Meeting of Directors of Humble Oil & Refining Company, held June 21, 1917.
7. Larson & Porter, pp. 85-6, 328, 662-64, 681; Walter Prescott Webb, Editor-in-Chief, The Handbook of Texas (Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952), pp. 668-69; and Minutes of Annual Stockholder's Meeting of Humble Oil & Refining Company, held March 1, 1926.
8. Larson & Porter, p. 47.
9. Larson & Porter, pp. 15, 35, 63, 71; and Minutes of Meeting of Directors, 8 July 1918.
10. Deed, J. C. Beebe to F. F. Arnim; Deed, Minnie Gregg Willard (as guardian of minors named in Deed) to F. F. Arnim; Deed, Minnie Gregg Willard to F. F. Arnim; Deed, Minnie Gertrude Willard to F. F. Arnim; Deed, Addie P. Willard to F. F. Arnim; all dated August 21, 1918.

Deed, J. C. Beebe to F. F. Arnim, August 21, 1918; Deed, Mrs. Lottie Peacock to F. F. Arnim, May 17, 1919.

Deed, John D. Rulien et ux to F. F. Arnim, August 19, 1918.

Warranty Deed, F. F. Arnim to Humble Oil & Refining Company; Warranty Deed, F. F. Arnim to Humble Oil & Refining Company; Warranty Deed, F. F. Arnim to Humble Oil & Refining Company; all dated May 22, 1919.
11. General Warranty Deed, A. O. Blackwell, A. N. McKay, and J. G. Kirkland to F. F. Arnim, August 28, 1918; Deed, Mrs. Annie McKie, O. E. McKie, Mrs. Lethe L. Elliott, and Mrs. Ethel Smiley to F. F. Arnim, April 30, 1919; Deed, F. F. Arnim to Humble Oil & Refining Company; Deed, F. F. Arnim to Humble Oil & Refining Company; both dated May 22, 1919.

12. Larson & Porter, pp. 73-4; and Minutes of Meeting of Directors, 15 February 1919.
13. "More Products for Progress," The Humble Way, May-June, 1957, p. 48; "Humble Oil & Refining Co. Plans Huge Development," The Oil Trade Journal, July, 1919, p. 12; and Larson & Porter, pp. 76, 198-99.
14. Larson & Porter, pp. 200-01.
15. Chuck Raison, "Tent Town -- Baytown's Come Long Way Since 1919," The Baytown Sun, 7 March 1982, p. 1-D; A. E. T. Newkirk, "Baytown As An Industrial Community," The Humble Magazine, November 1921, pp. 15-16; and Larson & Porter, p. 199.
16. "Mr. Farish Gives Purposes and Plans for East Baytown," Humble Bee, 3 August 1925, p. 2; Minutes of Meeting of Directors, 11 February 1935 and 13 April 1936; and Margaret Swett Henson, The History of Baytown (Bay Area Heritage Society, 1986), pp. 129-30.
17. Larson & Porter, pp. 204-08.
18. "History of the Baytown Refinery," refinery memorandum, 10 April 1981, p. 1; "Billion Gallon Day," Humble Lubricator and Humble Refinery Bee (combined issue), January 1945, p. 5; and Larson & Porter, p. 556.
19. Herbert H. Meier, "Breaking the World War II TNT Bottleneck. Toluene from Petroleum and Other Wartime Stories," 25 February 1978, pp 12-16; and "Billion Gallon Day," p. 9.
20. Minutes of Meeting of Directors, 5 May 1942 and 13 July 1942; and Larson & Porter, pp. 22, 598, 623.
21. "History of the Baytown Refinery," p. 2; "Job Analysis," The Humble Way, January-February 1948, p. 6; Larson & Porter, pp. 623, 694; "Exxon Baytown Manufacturing Personnel Rolls," refinery memorandum, 28 April 1986; and "Kept Getting Bigger and Better," Baytown Briefs, September 1982, p. 2.
22. "Overview of the Baytown Refinery," Public Relations Department, p. 3.
23. Interview with Ben Daniel, Secretary of Exxon Land Committee, 23 June 1988; "Overview of the Baytown Refinery," p. 3; and "History of the Baytown Refinery," p. 2.

24. "Historical Information of Humble Oil & Refining Company," company memorandum, 30 November 1951; Minutes of Meeting of Directors, 2 September 1959 and 1 December 1959; and "Plan & Agreement of Merger," 1 October 1959, p. 2.

25. Century of Discovery: An Exxon Album (New York: Exxon Corporation, 1982), pp. 42, 53.

26. "Overview of the Baytown Refinery," p. 5.

27. "Baytown Began Making Chemicals 40 Years Ago," Baytown Briefs, September 1982, p. 2; "History of the Baytown Refinery," p. 2; "Overview of the Baytown Refinery, p. 6; and Inside Exxon Chemical (Houston, Texas: Public Affairs Department, Exxon Chemical Americas, 1987), pp. 2-3.

28. "Overview of the Baytown Refinery," p. 5; and "Industrial Facilities - Baytown, Texas," Baytown Chamber of Commerce, May, 1988.

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- "Baytown Began Making Chemicals 40 Years Ago." Baytown Briefs, September 1982, p. 2.
- "Billion Gallon Day." Humble Lubricator and Humble Refinery Bee (combined issue), January 1945, pp. 4-11.
- Century of Discovery: An Exxon Album. New York: Exxon Corporation, 1982.
- Daniel, Ben. Personal Interview. 23 June 1988.
- Deed. J. C. Beebe to F. F. Arnim.
- Deed. Minnie Gregg Willard (as guardian of minors named in Deed) to F. F. Arnim, 21 August 1918.
- Deed. Minnie Gregg Willard to F. F. Arnim, 21 August 1918.
- Deed. Minnie Gertrude Willard to F. F. Arnim, 21 August 1918.
- Deed. Addie P. Willard to F. F. Arnim, dated 21 August 1918.
- Deed. J. C. Beebe to F. F. Arnim, 21 August 1918.
- Deed. Mrs. Lottie Peacock to F. F. Arnim, 17 May 1919.
- Deed. John D. Rulien et ux to F. F. Arnim, 19 August 1918.
- Deed. Mrs. Annie McKie, O. E. McKie, Mrs. Lethe L. Elliott, and Mrs. Ethel Smiley to F. F. Arnim, 30 April 1919.
- Deed. F. F. Arnim to Humble Oil & Refining Company, 22 May 1919.
- Deed. F. F. Arnim to Humble Oil & Refining Company, 22 May 1919.
- "Exxon Baytown Manufacturing Personnel Rolls." Refinery Memorandum, 28 April 1986.
- General Warranty Deed. A. O. Blackwell, A. N. McKay, and J. G. Kirkland to F. F. Arnim, 28 August 1918.
- Henson, Margaret Swett. The History of Baytown. Bay Area Heritage Society, 1986).

- "Historical Information of Humble Oil & Refining Company." Company Memorandum, 30 November 1951.
- "History of the Baytown Refinery." Refinery Memorandum, 10 April 1981.
- "Humble Oil & Refining Co. Plans Huge Development." The Oil Trade Journal, July, 1919, pp. 12-13.
- "Industrial Facilities - Baytown, Texas." Baytown Chamber of Commerce, May, 1988.
- Inside Exxon Chemical. Houston, Texas: Public Affairs Department, Exxon Chemical Americas, 1987.
- "Job Analysis." The Humble Way. January-February 1948, p. 6.
- "Kept Getting Bigger and Better." Baytown Briefs. September 1982, p. 2.
- Larson, Henrietta M. and Porter, Kenneth Wiggins. History of Humble Oil & Refining Company. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1959.
- Meier, Herbert H. "Breaking the World War II TNT Bottleneck. Toluene from Petroleum and Other Wartime Stories." 25 February 1978.
- Minutes of Meetings of Directors of Humble Oil & Refining Company.
- "Mr. Farish Gives Purposes and Plans for East Baytown." Humble Bee, 3 August 1925, pp. 2-4.
- "More Products for Progress." The Humble Way, May-June, 1957, pp. 48-55.
- Newkirk, A. E. T. "Baytown As An Industrial Community." The Humble Magazine, November 1921, pp. 15-16.
- "Overview of the Baytown Refinery." Public Relations Department, Exxon Baytown Refinery.
- "Plan & Agreement of Merger," 1 October 1959.
- Raison, Chuck. "Tent Town -- Baytown's Come Long Way Since 1919." The Baytown Sun, 7 March 1982, p. 1-D.
- Stockholder's Meeting of Humble Oil & Refining Company, 1 March 1926.
- Townes, E. E. "How The Company Was Organized." The Humble Way, May-June 1957, pp. 3-5.

Humble--June Begeman

23

Warranty Deeds, F. F. Arnim to Humble Oil & Refining Company, 22 May 1919.

Webb, Walter Prescott, Editor-in-Chief. The Handbook of Texas. Austin:
The Texas State Historical Association, 1952, pp. 668-69. Volume II.

Landmark

LOCATION FOR THE HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY HISTORICAL MARKER

Photo:

Median at the Exxon Baytown Refinery north entrance at Rollingbrook Drive and Spur 330.



Parish, Louisiana, in June, 1820, to await word concerning the results of Austin's trip to Texas. Austin returned from Texas ill, and Joseph Bays helped nurse him at the home of Hugh McGuffin^{qv} in December, 1820. Bays remained in the parish for several years and during the period he crossed into Texas and preached at the Joseph Hinds home near San Augustine, the first recorded Baptist service on Texas soil.

In 1823 Bays was arrested for holding services in San Felipe in violation of Mexican law forbidding the practice of any except the Roman Catholic religion in Texas. He evaded his captors near San Marcos and escaped to the home of Joseph Kuykendall^{qv} at Fort Bend and on to Louisiana. Bays returned to Texas to settle in San Augustine County. He died in Matagorda County in 1854 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Peter De Moss.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Dan Ferguson, "Forerunners of Baylor," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, XLIX (1945-1946).

Bayside, Texas. Bayside, on the western shore of Copano Bay in Refugio County, was founded by O. E. Burton and A. H. Lanforth in 1907. The townsite lies about one and one-half miles below the historic town of St. Mary's. The promoters of Bayside Colony subdivided some four thousand acres of the Bonnie View Ranch, once owned by Major J. H. Wood,^{qv} into five-acre farm tracts which were sold to hundreds of non-residents of Texas upon the representation that a good living could be made by growing fruit and truck. A lot in the town was given with each farm-tract.

Bayside, unincorporated, has in it the homes of many non-resident sportsmen. A causeway over the Aransas River gives the town an outlet to both Rockport and Corpus Christi, and a paved road connects it with Woodsboro, the nearest railroad station. Population in 1940 was approximately

Hobart Huson

Baytown, Texas. Baytown, a part of the Tri-Cities area of southeastern Harris County, is a highly industrialized city with synthetic rubber and petroleum industries predominating. Among the earliest settlers in the area were Nathaniel Lynch,^{qv} who set up Lynch's Ferry in 1822, and William Scott,^{qv} who made his home near the present site of the town in 1824. A settlement with a sawmill and a store was called Baytown. A regatta held in the bay in 1860 was the beginning of now popular sailing events. A Confederate shipyard was established near Baytown at the mouth of Goose Creek in 1864. The town developed rapidly after the discovery of oil in 1916 and, in 1940, had a population of 3,600. In 1947 the towns of Pelly and Goose Creek were consolidated with Baytown, and by 1950 the new city of Baytown had a population of 22,927.

Baytown, Texas. Baytown, in northeastern Galveston County on the Texas and New Orleans Railroad and a mail route from Kemah, was named about 1912 or 1913 for its location on Galveston Bay. The community of summer homes and one filling station had a population of seventy-five in 1948.

Bazette, Texas. Bazette, a few miles west of

one of the first buildings. About 1872 a store was built and a post office, designated as Bazette, was established. The Bazette road and the Bazette crossing to Shreveport were used by traders and immigrants; early records indicate that herds of cattle passed over the routes. The population was 150 in 1945.

Beach, Harrison Leroy. Harrison Leroy Beach, son of Myron H. and Helen Mary (Hoskins) Beach, was born in Dubuque, Iowa, on January 12, 1863. Entering newspaper work in Chicago in 1889, he was with the Associated Press from 1892 to 1911 and was a correspondent at Santiago, Cuba, and other points during the Spanish-American War. For many years he was superintendent of the central division of Associated Press with headquarters at Chicago and represented the organization at national political conventions. He married Jesse M. Bowen on September 5, 1905.

With Charles P. Taft, Charles S. Diehl, and others, Beach owned and published the *San Antonio Light* from 1921 to May, 1924. He died in San Antonio on February 18, 1942.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Who Was Who in America* (1943).

Beach Creek. Beach Creek rises in east central Cass County and flows to the east approximately five miles into Black Bayou.

Beach Mountains. Beach Mountains, immediately north of Van Horn in southwestern Culbertson County, have an average elevation of 5,935 feet.

Bead Mountain. Bead Mountain in Coleman County has an elevation of 2,050 feet.

Bead Mountain Creek. Bead Mountain Creek in west central Coleman County rises southwest of the village of Valera and flows to the southeast into Home Creek.

Beadle, Texas. Beadle, on the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railroad in southwestern Matagorda County, was established in the early 1900's as an irrigated farm project managed by E. E. Beadle, who was also postmaster. Population was fifty in 1910 and the Ashby Mill and Warehouse Company operated a store, but the plant was closed and the post office discontinued by 1920.

Beal, John T. John T. Beal, son of John and Mary (Cullins) Beal, was born in Milam County, Texas, on October 24, 1847. During the winter of 1866-1867 he attended school at Salado before beginning freighting business between Cameron and Bryan. He was in the lumber business at Belton for a time and later entered the cattle business with J. W. Powers. He and his son, H. D. Beal, moved a herd of cattle to Borden County in 1879. In 1880 Beal became general manager and part owner of the Jumbo Cattle Company. When the company failed in 1898, Beal became foreman for the St. Louis Cattle Company in Crosby County. He moved to Lubbock in 1900 and to Ranger Lake, New Mexico, about 1905. Beal married Anna Stoneham and was the father of eight children. He ranched in New Mexico until his death at Elida, New Mexico, on December 24, 1916.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: James Cox, *Historical and Biographical Record of the Cattle Industry of Texas and Adjacent Territory* (1895).

JOB NUMBER 37888

MARKER EVALUATION FORM

TITLE HUMBLE OIL & REFINING COMPANY

SUBJECT OL

ADDRESS San Jacinto Street entrance to refinery

YEAR 1989

TOWN Baytown

RTHL ----

COUNTY Harris

SIZE L, with post

ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION

STYLE:

FEATURES:

ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICAL EVALUATION

Established in 1917 by (future Governor) Ross S. Sterling, his brother Frank, and others, the Humble Oil & Refining Company has played an extremely important role in the Texas oil industry and the development of the city of Baytown. The 1917 date falls short of the 75-year rule for subject markers by just three years, but definitely qualifies the subject under the previous rule of "100 years or 2/3 the age of the community", and since this application was received prior to the rule change, I would recommend its approval.

(Although the narrative history states that the town of Baytown was named by Humble Oil Company executives, the enclosed Handbook of Texas entry gives a different story.)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: subject marker

EVALUATED BY:

Cynthia J. Beeman

SMC MEMBER RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Karl A. Komatke

(signature)

COMMENTS:

JOB NO. 37888MARKER TITLE HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY COUNTY HARRISMARKER SIZE 27" x 42" Subject Marker with Post PRICE 650.00**PROCEDURE FOR MARKER APPLICATION**

INITIAL DATE

crl	8/24/88	1. Application received	COUNTY CHAIRMAN: Al Davis 929 Waxmyrtle Houston, TX 77079 CC: Ron Embry Exxon Company P.O. Box 3950 Baytown, TX 77522 Bay Area Heritage Society P.O. Box 4161 Baytown, TX 77522	
crl	8/30/88	2. Receipt of application acknowledged		
CJB	1-12-89	3. Additional information sent for		
CJB	1-12-89	4. Evaluated		
al	1/16/89	5. Sent to SMC for approval	6. Letter of approval sent and folder labeled	
al	2/10/89			
CJB	2-24-89	7. Check received	THC # <u>007305</u>	Amount: <u>740.00</u>
CJB	3-29-89	8. Inscription written	File name: <u>9: humbloil.har</u>	
al	4/5/89	9. Inscription sent out for approval	10. Reapproval sent (if necessary) 11. Highway permission secured (if necessary)	
al	5/11/89	12. Order sent to Southwell	<u>Paperweight, too!</u>	
CRB CRB	5-30-89	13. Rubbing checked		
al	5/16/89	14. Dedication material sent		
BB	7-20-89	15. Notice of shipment sent		
		16. Survey card completed		

37888-P (1) replica print
(for Harris Co)Date paid: 2-24-89
Date ordered: 5/11/89

State Marker Program
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711
512/463-6100

Date: January 12, 1989

RE: HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY
Harris County, Job #37888

Dear Applicant/County Chairman:

Our staff has made a preliminary review of the above referenced marker application. Before we can complete our evaluation, however, we need the following information (note checked items below). We will place the application on hold until all requested material has been received.

- ☐ Historic photographs (from at least 50 years ago).
- ☐ Black and white photographs of each side of the structure.
- ☐ Black and white photographs of the proposed marker location.
- ☐ Unified narrative history (see marker policy #3).
- ☐ Bibliography of sources (see marker policy #3).
- ☐ Footnotes (see marker policy #3).
- ☐ 8½" x 11" white bond paper.
- ☐ Signature of county historical commission chairman on application form.
- ☐ Street address of or directions to the proposed marker site.
- ☐ Street address or telephone number for the person to whom the marker is to be shipped (the shipping firm will not deliver to post offices or to rural route box numbers).
- ☐ Permission of property owner for the marker's placement.
- ☐ Size and/or type of marker.
- ☐ Surface to which marker will be attached (brick, stone, stucco over stone, etc.).
- ☒ Other: This application will go to the State Marker Committee soon with a favorable staff recommendation. However, for help in eventually writing the marker inscription, we will need the vital dates (birth and death) of the people listed below. Thank you.

Thank you for your assistance with this request. If you have any questions about the material we need, please contact the State Marker Program of the Texas Historical Commission.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman

for Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

Frank Sterling
Walter W. Fondren
Charles B. Goddard
William Stamps Farish
Robert Lee Blaffer
Jesse Jones
E. E. Townes

Copies sent to: Al Davis
Ron Embry, Exxon Co.
Bay Area Heritage Society



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-6100

August 30, 1988

Al Davis
929 Waxmyrtle
Houston, TX 77079

Re: HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY
27" x 42" Subject Marker with Post

Dear Mr. Davis:

This letter is to notify you that we have received the above referenced marker application.

The application first will be reviewed and evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission staff. Should additional information be needed, you will be contacted. After any deficiencies have been corrected, copies of the application will be sent to the members of the State Marker Committee, who will make the final determination of the topic's acceptability for marking.

You will be notified as soon as the committee makes its decision. If the topic is approved for marking, we will request payment at the time of notification. If not approved, the application will be returned along with a letter of explanation.

Because of the variables involved in the marker process and because we must coordinate our orders with the schedule of the contracting foundry, we would ask that the dedication date not be set until you have received notice that the marker has been shipped.

We appreciate your interest in preserving the history of Texas.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard

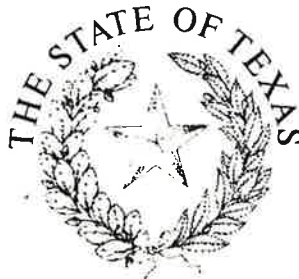
Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

FR/crl

cc: Ron Embry
Bay Area Heritage Society

T.R. FEHRENBACH, SAN ANTONIO
CHAIRMAN
MRS. H.L. LONG, KILGORE
VICE-CHAIRMAN
DR. DAN A. WILLIS, FORT WORTH
SECRETARY

MRS. LUNELLE A. ANDERSON, SAN MARCOS
JOHN M. BENNETT, SAN ANTONIO
CARRIELU B. CHRISTENSEN, AUSTIN
GEORGE CHRISTIAN, AUSTIN



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JAMES S. NABORS, LAKE JACKSON
MARY ANN PERRYMAN, ATHENS
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EVANGELINE L. WHORTON,
GALVESTON ISLAND

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

February 10, 1989

007305

RECEIVED
FEB 24 1989

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Al Davis
929 Waxmyrtle
Houston, Texas 77079

RE: HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY
27 x 42 subject marker with post (Job #37888)

Dear Al:

This letter is to notify you that the State Marker Committee has reviewed and approved the above-referenced topic for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

At this time, payment for the marker is due. A check, in the amount of \$702.00 (**\$650.00 if paid for by a tax-exempt organization**), should be made payable to the Texas Historical Commission and sent to the letterhead address as soon as possible.

Once payment is received, the application will be placed in line to have the marker inscription written. The inscription will not be written until after funds have been received. When the text is prepared, a copy will be sent to you and any parties listed below for review and approval.

The Texas Historical Commission wishes to congratulate you for your efforts to record and preserve Texas history.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

cc: Ron Embry
Bay Area Heritage Society

#740.00
Exxon Co, USA
Ch # 350915

\$650
90
\$740

P.S. An additional \$97.20 (**\$90.00 without tax**) is due for the **paperweight** requested by Harris County Historical Commission. Thank you.

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Bay Area Heritage Society

Post Office Box 4161 Baytown, Texas 77520 Telephone 713/427-8768

Feb. 24, 1989

R E C E I V E D
FEB 27 1989

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

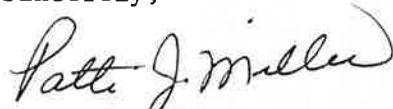
Dear Ms. Rickard;

Enclosed is a list of the information on the Humble Oil and Refinery Board Members you requested.

We have not been able to get any information on Charles Goddard, but we are still looking and will forward it to you as soon as we get it.

Thank you for all of your help.

Sincerely,

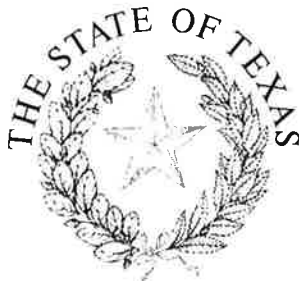


Patti J. Miller, Secretary
Baytown Historical Museum

William Farish----- Feb. 23, 1881- Nov. 29, 1942
Robert Blaffer----- Aug. 5, 1877- Oct. 22, 1942
Jessie Jones----- April 5, 1874- June 1, 1956
E.E. Townes----- Sept. 11, 1878- Jan. 31, 1962
Walter Fondren----- June 6, 1877- Jan. 5, 1939
Frank Sterling----- Oct. 27, 1869- July 16, 1938
Charles Goddard-----

T.R. FEHRENBACH, SAN ANTONIO
CHAIRMAN
MRS. H.L. LONG, KILGORE
VICE-CHAIRMAN
DR. DAN A. WILLIS, FORT WORTH
SECRETARY

MRS. LUNELLE A. ANDERSON, SAN MARCOS
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CARRIELU B. CHRISTENSEN, AUSTIN
GEORGE CHRISTIAN, AUSTIN



CURTIS TUNNELI
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MARY ANN PERRYMAN, ATHENS
GAY RATLIFF, AUSTIN
EVANGELINE L. WHORTON,
GALVESTON ISLAND

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

February 10, 1989

Al Davis
929 Waxmyrtle
Houston, Texas 77079

RE: HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY
27 x 42 subject marker with post (Job #37888)

Dear Al:

This letter is to notify you that the State Marker Committee has reviewed and approved the above-referenced topic for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

At this time, payment for the marker is due. A check, in the amount of \$702.00 (\$650.00 if paid for by a tax-exempt organization), should be made payable to the Texas Historical Commission and sent to the letterhead address as soon as possible.

Once payment is received, the application will be placed in line to have the marker inscription written. The inscription will not be written until after funds have been received. When the text is prepared, a copy will be sent to you and any parties listed below for review and approval.

The Texas Historical Commission wishes to congratulate you for your efforts to record and preserve Texas history.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

cc: Ron Embry
Bay Area Heritage Society

*Refinery is
sending check
direct.*

P.S. An additional \$97.20 (\$90.00 without tax) is due for the paperweight requested by Harris County Historical Commission. Thank you.

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

State Marker Program
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711
512/463-6100

Date: January 12, 1989

RE: HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY
Harris County, Job #37888

Dear Applicant/County Chairman:

Our staff has made a preliminary review of the above referenced marker application. Before we can complete our evaluation, however, we need the following information (note checked items below). We will place the application on hold until all requested material has been received.

- ☐ Historic photographs (from at least 50 years ago).
- ☐ Black and white photographs of each side of the structure.
- ☐ Black and white photographs of the proposed marker location.
- ☐ Unified narrative history (see marker policy #3).
- ☐ Bibliography of sources (see marker policy #3).
- ☐ Footnotes (see marker policy #3).
- ☐ 8½" x 11" white bond paper.
- ☐ Signature of county historical commission chairman on application form.
- ☐ Street address of or directions to the proposed marker site.
- ☐ Street address or telephone number for the person to whom the marker is to be shipped (the shipping firm will not deliver to post offices or to rural route box numbers).
- ☐ Permission of property owner for the marker's placement.
- ☐ Size and/or type of marker.
- ☐ Surface to which marker will be attached (brick, stone, stucco over stone, etc.).
- ☒ Other: This application will go to the State Marker Committee soon with a favorable staff recommendation. However, for help in eventually writing the marker inscription, we will need the vital dates (birth and death) of the people listed below. Thank you.

Thank you for your assistance with this request. If you have any questions about the material we need, please contact the State Marker Program of the Texas Historical Commission.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman

for Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

Frank Sterling
Walter W. Fondren
Charles B. Goddard
William Stamps Farish
Robert Lee Blaffer
Jesse Jones
E. E. Townes

Copies sent to: Al Davis
Ron Embry, Exxon Co.
Bay Area Heritage Society



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-6100

April 5, 1989

Al Davis
929 Waxmyrtle
Houston, TX 77079

Re: HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY
27"x 42" Subject Marker with Post

Dear Mr. Davis:

Enclosed is the proposed inscription for the above referenced marker. Please review and verify the information contained in the inscription. In particular, be sure to check all names and dates, and make certain we have used the correct marker location. Please contact other sponsors of this application to discuss the wording of the marker. If you approve the inscription, sign and return your own enclosed card.

If you have corrections or changes to suggest, please make a copy of the inscription and return it to us with the marked corrections. Please do not type a new version of the inscription. We will make changes to meet our style and spacing requirements. Documentation of any changes in this inscription, particularly of names and dates, is required for our permanent file.

Note that this is a working copy, including filing and foundry instructions. The right-hand margin is uneven on this copy, but will be justified on the finished marker.

The marker will not be ordered for casting until the county historical commission and other persons or groups listed below have approved the inscription. You may retain this inscription copy for your files.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman, Historian
State Marker Program

CJB/crl

cc: Ron Embry
Bay Area Heritage Society

RECEIVED
APR 25 1989

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HARRIS COUNTY

I approve the inscription for HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY

as sent to me on 4/5/89

Al Davis signature
Harris Co. Historical Commission organization
4/22/89 date

Have you checked with other parties involved to make sure all the necessary cards are mailed in? yes

Exxon &
Jean Shepherd (Bay Area Heritage Soc.)

HARRIS COUNTY

I approve the inscription for HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY

as sent to me on 4/5/89

R. L. Embury / cph signature
Exxon Company, U.S.A. organization
April 18, 1989 date

Have you checked with other parties involved to make sure all the necessary cards are mailed in? Yes.

RECEIVED
APR 20 1989
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HARRIS COUNTY

I approve the inscription for HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY

as sent to me on 4/5/89

Jean Shepherd signature
Bay Area Heritage Society organization
April 21, 1989 date

Have you checked with other parties involved to make sure all the necessary cards are mailed in? Exxon sent in card, called

Al Davis warden was OK

STATE MARKER PROGRAM
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711
512/463-6100

May 11, 1989

Mr. Bill Southwell
The Southwell Company
P.O. Box 299
San Antonio, TX 78291

RE: Job No. 37888

County HARRIS

Title HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY

Dear Mr. Southwell:

The Texas Historical Commission wishes to place an order with you for the following items:

- ☐ 16" x 12" Grave Marker
- ☒ 27" x 42" Subject Marker with Post
- ☐ 27" x 42" Subject Marker without Post for attachment to _____
- ☐ 18" x 28" Subject Marker with Post
- ☐ 18" x 28" Subject Marker without Post for attachment to _____
- ☐ Medallion No. _____ and 16" x 12" Plate with Post
- ☐ Medallion No. _____ and 16" x 12" Plate without Post for attachment to _____
- ☐ Aluminum National Register Plaque for attachment to _____
- ☐ Plastic Paperweight Replica of Job No. _____, _____ County
- ☐ Medallion Paperweight
- ☐ Other _____

Please provide us with a rubbing of the inscription as appropriate.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this order.

Sincerely,

Cindee

State Marker Program

SHIPPING INFORMATION

Ron Embry
Exxon Company U.S.A.
Decker Drive
Baytown, TX 77522
713/425-3333

INCISING INFORMATION

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CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-6100

May 16, 1989

Al Davis
929 Waxmyrtle
Houston, TX 77079

Re: HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY
27" x 42" Subject Marker with Post

Dear Mr. Davis:

This is to advise you that we have ordered the above referenced marker for casting. The completed marker should be ready for shipment within eight to ten weeks. A copy of the final inscription as it was sent to the foundry is enclosed for your files.

If you have not already done so, this would be a good time to begin planning the marker dedication ceremony. We would advise you, however, to avoid setting the dedication date to coincide with the shipment date as estimated above. That estimate does not take into account potential shipping errors or other unforeseeable delays, which might upset the best laid dedication plans. A guide to assist you with your dedication plans is available upon request from our office. Since this is a state program, we suggest your state representative and/or senator be included in the program, as well as your county judge and commissioners who have appointed your commission.

Enclosed please find a form for announcing the date of your marker dedication ceremony in the THC's monthly newsletter, The Medallion. Please read the form carefully, as notice must be made well in advance of the scheduled dedication in order to appear in the preservation calendar.

We would appreciate having copies of any publicity, programs, or other memorabilia from the ceremony to complete our file on this marker. If you have a state legislator participate in a dedication program, please send us a clear black-and-white photograph of his or her part in the ceremony, and we'll consider it for publication in The Medallion.

Thank you for your continued support and good work toward the preservation of the history of our state.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

FR/crl

cc: Ron Embry

Bay Area Heritage Society

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-6100

July 20, 1989

Al Davis
929 Waxmyrtle
Houston, TX 77079

RE: HUMBLE OIL AND REFINING COMPANY
27" X 42" subject marker w/post

Dear Mr. Davis:

The above referenced marker has been shipped as indicated below. If this marker is not received within one week from the date of this notice, please contact Sylvia at the Southwell Company at 512/223-1831, immediately, so it can be traced. Please be prepared to give her the following information:

Job No. 37888 Date Shipped 6/29/89 Via CENTRAL

Shipped to: RON EMBRY
EXXON COMPANY, USA
DECKER DRIVE
BAYTOWN, TX 77522

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard

Frances Rickard
Director
State Marker Program

FR/bjb

cc: Ron Embry
Bay Area Heritage Society

MARKER INSCRIPTION

Humble Oil & Refining Company

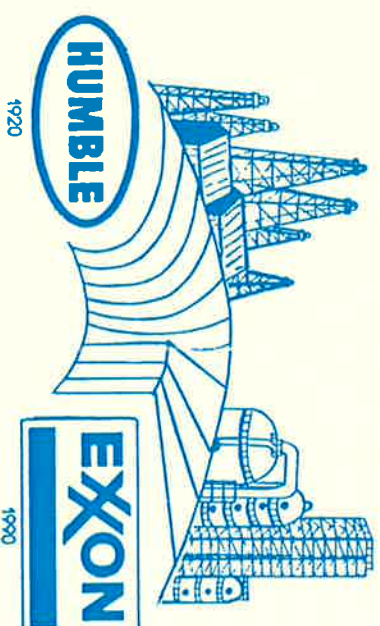
Ross S. Sterling entered the oil business in 1909, when he invested in the Humble oil field north of Houston. Two years later he formed the Humble Oil Company with five partners: Walter W. Fondren, Charles B. Goddard, William Stamps Farish, Robert Lee Blaffer, and Harry Carothers Wiess. Sterling's brother, Frank, became a company director in 1914.

In 1917 the company obtained a state charter under the name Humble Oil & Refining Company. In order to finance the building of a refinery, fifty percent of the company stock was sold to Standard Oil of New Jersey. The first oil was pumped into a still at the new refinery on May 11, 1920.

As the company expanded and employed more people, a town grew up around the refinery. The company provided low-interest home loans to its employees. By the 1930s research was being conducted at the Baytown Refinery, resulting in the production of vital products for the U.S. war effort during World War II.

The post-war years saw additional expansion at the Refinery, and the company was merged with Standard Oil of New Jersey in 1959. The Humble name was used until 1972, when Standard Oil Company (NJ) became known as Exxon Corporation.

State of Texas
official marker dedication



Recognizing

Exxon Baytown Refinery

70 years of achievement

Saturday, May 12, 1990

2800 Decker Drive, Baytown, Texas

Special acknowledgements

Archie Archer, active employee with most service, 48 years
June Begeman, researcher and historical writer

Jimmy Carroll, joined Humble in 1919

Ben Daniell, marker location

Buddy Kinney, historical logo

Mike Lampkin, marker artist

Larry McAdams, artist rendering of dedication location

Jean Shepherd, former Baytown Historical Museum Director

Charles Young, special exhibits

Varsity Color Guard, Marine Junior Reserve Officers Training
Corps, Ross S. Sterling High School

Cadet Major Ronald Romero, Captain Edward Quiroga, Second

Lieutenant Bobby Ortiz and First Sergeant James Perez

Master Sergeant David Aiken, sponsor

Chuck Brant, 1911 Model T Ford, 1920 jumbo stationery engine

Vintage cars provided by Bayshore Fine Rides Car Club

Paul Patterson, 1929 Ford pickup

Joe Thomas, 1929 Ford

Dedication committee

Sally Bird, Steven Boyd, Mark Brumbaugh, Caesar Cuellar,
Cathy Koons, Shirley Kubin, Charles Land, Lillie Lockhart,
John Martine, Jeff McClure, Glenna Pfennig, Pete Porrazzo,
Charlotte Reid, Buddy Schnell and Troy Stucke

PROGRAM

Welcome Sherman Glass, Refinery Manager

Invocation The Rev. P. Walter Henckell

Presentation of flags Marine Corps Junior ROTC

Ross S. Sterling High School

National anthem..... Led by Annie Elmore

Introduction of guests Sherman Glass

Remarks by Senator Gene Green

State Representative Tony Polumbo

Baytown Mayor Emmett Hutto

History of the site..... June Begeman, historical researcher

Presentation of the marker Al Davis, Harris County Historical

Commission Chairman

Unveiling of the marker Al Davis, Jimmy Carroll, Archie Archer

Acceptance of the marker Sherman Glass

Reception and historical exhibit in Main Office Lobby



Baytown Refinery

70th Anniversary





1920-1990