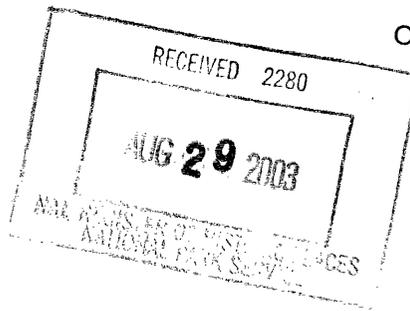


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1025

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

CERTIFIED WELDING CORPORATION
historic name: The Texas Oil Company, Texaco, Inc.
other names/site number: 48LA1418/48LA1294

2. Location

street & number: 1122 West 23rd Street not for publication: N/A
city or town: Cheyenne vicinity: N/A
state: Wyoming code: 56 county: Laramie code: 021 zip code: 82001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard A. Hunt 8/25/03
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: warehouse

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements
Sub: Commercial Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete
roof : Wood, tar and gravel
walls: Brick
other: _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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 (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Commerce

Period of Significance: ca. 1915-1953

Significant Dates: ca. 1915 (building date)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) _____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	13	514320	4553560

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Fraction of Lots 5-6, Lot 7, Block 160, Original City of Cheyenne

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary is the lots which the property occupies in Block 160.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Robert G. Rosenberg, Historian
organization: Rosenberg Historical Consultants date: 1/15/2003
street & number: 739 Crow Creek Road telephone: (307)-632-1144
city or town: Cheyenne state: WY zip code: 82009

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name: Don R. Chick
street & number: 1118 Patio Drive
city or town: Cheyenne
state: WY zip code: 82001
telephone: (307)634-2371

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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CERTIFIED WELDING CORPORATION
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING

7. Description

Certified Welding Corporation is located at 1122 West 23rd Street in an industrial area on the west side of the original commercial district of the City of Cheyenne, Wyoming. This property consists of two related buildings over fifty years of age that were served by a railroad siding.

Building No. 1 (the west building) is a two-story brick building (28' x 30') resting on a concrete foundation with a full basement. It is a front-gabled commercial/industrial building, and the roof is covered with built-up tar and gravel with a centered straddle-ridge brick chimney. There is an L-shaped loading dock (7' x 27') along the facade or south side and the southeast corner. Corbeled brick ornamentation runs the length of the building in the cornice area on the east and west sides. A pedestrian entrance is located in the facade (south side) that has been altered. It is accessed via a set of wooden steps leading up to the loading dock. This entrance retains the original concrete lintel and may have once served as a freight entrance (adjacent to the railroad siding). Windows are generally one over one-light double-hung units with cement sills and lintels. The east side of the building has two pedestrian entrances and a single one over one-light double-hung window with concrete lintels. The entrances are fitted with modern doors and aluminum storm doors leading to the office area. The entrances are accessed via wooden steps and a deck, which was part of the former loading dock. The north side has a second-story one over one-light double-hung window, and an outside entrance to the basement surrounded by a security fence. There is also an above grade basement window with a concrete lintel. The west side of the building has two rectangular window bays that have been covered over. A large painted signboard on the west side above the windows is faded but still reads "Texaco," one of the former owners. All of the windows in the building have decorative wooden shutters and plywood headpieces, as do the doors, added by the current owner.

The first story of the building is occupied by offices that have been remodeled with wood paneling. The second story, formerly used for storage, has also been remodeled with sheetrock walls and ceiling and carpeting. All of this work was done by the current owner, who has owned the property for eighteen years. An open rope-operated freight elevator (Otis Elevator Co.) is still serviceable and runs from the basement to the second story. There are also stairs leading from the first to the second floor. The basement and second story of the building were originally used for the storage of barrels of oil delivered by railroad cars. According to the building permit files, the office on the first floor was remodeled in 1949 at a cost of \$4000, but the more recent remodeling has covered any trace of its 1949 appearance.

Building No. 2 (east building) is similar in appearance. It is a two-story red brick building (36' x 37') resting on a concrete foundation without any basement. It is a front-gabled building, and the roof is covered

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**CERTIFIED WELDING CORPORATION
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING**

with built-up roofing material. The cornice area exhibits intricate brick corbeling that encircles the building, and it has a brick parapet. The south and north sides of the building contain matching wooden two-leaf sliding garage doors. The north door has an inset mandoor in its east leaf. Both sides also have a second-story six over six-light double-hung window with wood sash and cement lintel and sill. It appears that both windows were altered between the lintel and lights. There are two small window bays with four-light windows in the west side and a pedestrian entrance that has been sealed over with brick. However, the cement lintel is still in place. The east side of the building has four evenly spaced four-light windows with concrete lintels and sills. There is a large painted Texaco signboard above the windows and below the cornice area. This building once served as an oil warehouse, and it was re-roofed in 1974. It currently serves as a workshop for Certified Welding.

At least two large above-ground oil storage tanks were formerly located between Building Nos. 1 and 2. Two 3,000-gallon tanks were removed from the site in 1974. The current owner states that there were also buried fuel tanks that have been removed. There was originally a wood frame oil pump house located at the north end of the tank area that has been removed.

The exteriors of Building Nos. 1 and 2 retain high levels of physical integrity with nearly all original windows, sash and frames. The interior of Building No. 1 has been remodeled, and the south entrance has been altered. Other exterior changes such as the shutters are cosmetic and easily removed. The interior of Building No. 2 remains essentially original. Overall, both buildings are well-preserved and rather unusual examples of early twentieth-century brick masonry commercial/industrial architecture with their gable roofs and tall narrow design.

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CERTIFIED WELDING CORPORATION
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING

8. Significance

The two buildings occupied by the Certified Welding Corporation are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, because they represent the early twentieth-century commercial activity in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Cheyenne had its origins as a railroad town created in 1867 by the construction of the first transcontinental railroad, making it an important transportation center from its inception. Therefore, its commercial history was inextricably tied to the railroad. The buildings at 1122 West 23rd Street were constructed in ca. 1915 and were accessed by a railroad siding on the south side. The tracks remain so that the property retains its physical association with the railroad. The brick buildings are well-preserved examples of early twentieth-century warehouse architecture and served as a wholesale bulk oil storage facility operated by the Texas Oil Company. It is one of a group of industrial buildings identified by previous historical surveys that remain on the west side of downtown Cheyenne and that were directly serviced by the railroad (see related Multiple Property Listing).

Historical Setting

The Cheyenne townsite was surveyed on July 9, 1867, and by the time the tracks reached the town on November 13, it already had a population of 4000 people and 200 businesses. Fort D.A. Russell and the quartermaster storehouses at Camp Carlin were established at Cheyenne and became the most important military presence in the Rocky Mountain region, supplying military posts throughout the region. A rail spur was built from the mainline of the Union Pacific Railroad to the storehouses at Camp Carlin in 1868. A wide variety of goods was shipped via rail to Camp Carlin, then freighted across the plains to the widely scattered frontier posts and Indian agencies. Thus, the precedent was already well established of Cheyenne serving as a supply center for the surrounding region, and it would continue to serve this function well into the twentieth century.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company chose Cheyenne as the site for its principal depot and repair shops in the Rocky Mountain region assuring it a vital and long term role in the life of the railroad. A twenty-stall roundhouse and turntable were constructed there in 1869, among the first permanent structures in Cheyenne. The spur to Camp Carlin diverged from the Union Pacific mainline at the roundhouse and headed north along Reed Avenue. After Camp Carlin was decommissioned in 1890, the line continued to serve Fort D.A. Russell. It was along this corridor on the west side of Cheyenne that many warehouses and other industrial buildings requiring rail service were later constructed.

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**CERTIFIED WELDING CORPORATION
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING**

Cheyenne enjoyed a boom period based largely on cattle ranching that extended from 1875 to 1887. Large cattle outfits established far-flung ranching operations on the surrounding plains, and Cheyenne's strategic location made it an important shipping point. Many of the cattle barons built their headquarters in Cheyenne, making it the political, social and economic center of the Wyoming cattle industry. Cheyenne's location also allowed it to become a major shipping point and banking center for the Black Hills gold rush when it was linked to the mines via the Cheyenne-Deadwood Stage Road.

The cattle boom proved to be short-lived and declined in the late 1880s. Many of the cattle barons left the city, selling their mansions to residents engaged in government (territorial and state capitol), commerce, and the railroad. The Cheyenne and Northern Railroad was chartered in Cheyenne in 1886 to tap the ranching lands of the Power River Basin. The 125-mile line followed the existing branch from the Union Pacific mainline up Reed Avenue to the Cheyenne Depot and Fort D.A. Russell, then northwest along the east side of the Laramie Range. However, track building unaccountably stalled for three years at Wendover on the North Platte River so that it was of limited economic value to the Union Pacific or Cheyenne. Finally in 1890, a 28-mile segment was built to the east-west running Chicago and North Western Railway at Orin Junction, thus completing a link between Cheyenne and Casper. The line was later controlled by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, and a nine-mile segment built in 1915 connected two sections of Burlington's lines and linked Montana to Nebraska, as well as providing a southern link to Texas. A freight yard and roundhouse were later constructed by the Burlington in northwest Cheyenne, continuing its tradition as an important railroad town.

In 1890 the Union Pacific Division machine shops were constructed in Cheyenne, which brought about a substantial increase in the work force and ameliorated the effects of the decline of the cattle industry. The Union Pacific gradually expanded its rail yard facilities in the early 1900s; the size of the roundhouse was increased and a larger turntable was installed. A new machine shop was constructed in 1918-19, one of the largest buildings ever constructed in the Union Pacific system. In 1923, the Union Pacific Railroad established a freight terminal in Cheyenne as a distribution point for Wyoming and adjoining states. Once again the rail yards were expanded, and a new freight terminal was built. In 1929, the depot was remodeled, the yard was enlarged, and the roundhouse was once again expanded, exemplifying the Union Pacific's continued commitment to its Cheyenne rail facilities, a major economic mainstay for the city.

The industrial district of Cheyenne generally spread north and east throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, following the Cheyenne and Northern railroad corridor north along Reed Avenue and beyond, and the Union Pacific mainline east and west of the depot. Warehouses and industrial buildings were spaced

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**CERTIFIED WELDING CORPORATION
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along the north corridor along Reed Avenue and consisted of lumber yards and storage facilities for hay, grain, coal, and ice. The city gas works was also located along this corridor in 1886. After the turn of the century, more industrial buildings and warehouses were constructed along West Fifteenth Street. By 1907, the Northern Colorado Power Company had built an electric light plant near the gas plant that was serviced by the railroad along Reed Avenue. A substantial grain elevator was constructed along this corridor in 1911. Ice plants and coal companies were also located along the rail corridor in the early twentieth century. Substantial brick warehouses were built along West Fifteenth Street in the 1910s and early 1920s in what had formerly been a modest residential area and were served by railroad spurs. The Laramie County Milk Producers Co-op Association built a creamery in 1923 at 2311 Reed Avenue in the north end of the warehouse district that was also serviced by a railroad spur. Thus, the pattern for industrial growth in the City of Cheyenne had been set in the late nineteenth century by railroad construction, and it continued well into the twentieth century.

1122 West 23rd Street

The original building permit for the warehouses is no longer available in the public record. However, city directories and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps verify the date of 1915 given in the Tax Assessor court house records. The 1923 and 1931 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps depict a "brick office" (west) and "oil warehouse" (east), two above-ground fuel storage tanks, and two small wood frame oil pumphouses onsite. The entire complex is identified as a "Bulk Oil Depot" that was served by a railroad siding. According to city directories, the Texas Oil Company first occupied this address in 1915 and sold petroleum products wholesale. Gas and oil were brought in by railroad cars, then unloaded and stored for local distribution. By 1960, the name of the corporation had changed to Texaco, Incorporated, and it is assumed that some of the products were distributed to local Texaco service station outlets. The Texas Oil Company continued to occupy this site as a wholesale distributor through 1979. The property was then vacant until 1989, when the current owner, Certified Welding Corporation, occupied the premises.

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CERTIFIED WELDING CORPORATION
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING

Section 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cheyenne City Directories, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 1902-1999.

Ittelson, Ellen

1986 *Historic Building Inventory Record. Westside Survey, Cheyenne, Wyoming.*

Original City Books, County Clerk's Office, Laramie County Courthouse, Cheyenne, Wyoming, n.d.

Property Records, Tax Assessor's Office, Laramie County Courthouse, Cheyenne, Wyoming, n.d.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps dated 1894, 1907, 1912, 1923, and 1931.

Building Permit Files, Room 202, City Building, Cheyenne.

Wyoming State Archives

n.d. City of Cheyenne, City Engineer, Building Permits, Record Group 3001.

Wyoming State Business Directories, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 1900-1990.

