

Appendix A – Summary of Historic Resources

The text that follows is excerpted from the 1994 Management Action Plan for the Oil Heritage Region and has been edited to reflect changes that have taken place in the intervening period.

This narrative, with accompanying maps, provides an overview of key resources in the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

The initial pages provide a listing of National Register listed and NR eligible resources, based on information available from the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission.

PHMC National Register listed and eligible resources

Lists are provided for Venango and the portion of Crawford County within the Oil Region NHA boundary, with items highlighted in red that have been added in 1994 and later (e.g. – since the completion of the original Oil Heritage Region Management Plan).

See Figures A-1 and A-2.

Figure A-1: Venango County, Extant Properties listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

National Historic Landmarks

Drake Oil Well, Cherry Creek Township

National Register Historic Districts

Emlenton Historic District

Franklin Historic District

Oil City Downtown Commercial National Register Historic District

Oil City North Side National Register Historic District

Oil City South Side National Register Historic District

Properties individually listed in the National Register

Site of Pithole City, Cornplanter Township

Samuel Dale House, Franklin

National Transit Building & Annex, Oil City

Oil City Armory, Oil City

Oil City U.S. Post Office, Oil City

Allegheny Baptist Church, Pleasantville Borough

Pithole Stone Arch Bridge, President Township

Rockland Furnace, Rockland Township

Properties determined eligible for the National Register

Drake Well Memorial Park, Cherry Tree Township

Oil Creek Railroad (Pennsylvania Railroad) East Line, Cherry Creek Township

Coal Oil Johnny's House, Cornplanter Township

Franklin Rolling Mill & Foundry, Franklin

513 15th Street, Franklin

206 11th Street, Franklin

Clarion Secondary Railroad Sections 5, 6a, 6b, 6c, Multiple Municipalities -

Sandy Creek to Van

Christ Episcopal Church, Oil City

Imperial Works of the Oil Well Supply, Oil City

C.F. Kramer Building, Oil City

National Transit Pump & Machine Company, Oil City

United Natural Gas Company, Oil City

Oil City Library, Oil City

State School and Hospital, Polk Borough

Belmar Bridge, Franklin & Clearfield Railroad, Rockland & Scrubgrass
Township

Indian God Rock Petroglyph, Rockland Township*

James Anderson House, Scrubgrass Township

**Not shown on map as location can not be given to public*

**Figure A-2: Crawford County (Titusville and Oil Creek Township), Extant
Properties listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of
Historic Places**

National Register Historic Districts

Titusville Historic District

Properties individually listed in the National Register

Titusville City Hall

Properties determined eligible for the National Register

Titusville Waterworks, Oil Creek Township

Titusville Jr.-Sr. High School

Titusville U.S. Post Office

Titusville

Titusville, the birthplace of the Oil industry, still possesses a substantial community infrastructure of residential and institutional fabric and uses. Initially settled by Titus and Kerr, surveyors of the Holland Land Company, with the intent of establishing lumbering activity in northwestern Pennsylvania, Titusville has historically been considered a stable community. Even after Drake's strike and the initial oil boom that brought chaotic fluctuations of settlement to the Oil Creek Valley, Titusville stood in stark contrast to boomtown settlements such as Pithole, which saw dramatic population inflows and subsequent decline. Throughout this period, Titusville was perceived as a community in which to settle and raise a family. Key resources in Titusville are shown on Figure A-3.

A strong base of church congregations and schools prevented the town from being overtaken by the "undesirable elements" that the oil boom produced. The arts flourished in Titusville, as it became host to drama and music, and home to noteworthy individuals such as Edwin Drake, Ida Tarbell and John Mather; houses of the latter two still remain. Titusville is characterized by its extant educational infrastructure including: Elm Street Elementary, the first public kindergarten; McKinney Hall, the original building of the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville; community institutions such as the YWCA; religious institutions, including St. James Memorial Episcopal Church, the oldest church building in continuous use, the First Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Home, and multiple extant congregations and structures, and; public recreational facilities including Scheide, Pioneer, and Burgess Parks.

Today, Titusville still boasts an extensive collection of Victorian residential architecture that is the result of the wealth generated by the oil industry. These fully intact neighborhoods, with outstanding examples of residential and institutional architecture and streets that still featuring brick paving, lie to both the east and west of Franklin street to the north of the central business district. Titusville's downtown is part of a National Register Historic District with several blocks of intact commercial architecture with excellent examples of commercial and institutional architecture, including the City Hall. In the past decade, the Drake Hotel within this district was demolished in favor of a pharmacy with parking in front, creating a discontinuity within this setting.

The transition between the commercial district and the area south of Main Street in the immediate vicinity of the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad Perry Street station has some extant industrial fabric, but also suffers from some discontinuities. Many of the historic structures from the Route 8 entry and below Central Avenue -- the city's "west side" -- have been lost. This area was the traditional site of the city's refineries and industrial district, including the site of the first refinery on Oil Creek. Demolition began with the 1892 fire and flood and then was completed through post-war urban renewal efforts. The city's "east side" is still an industrial environment, with the Cytemp Steel plant occupying a vast amount of acreage along Oil Creek. A stone retaining wall and structure located near the convergence of Central and Main Streets recalls the original plant structures. Toward the eastern entrance to the city, the TransPenn Wax factory sits on the site of the first refinery on Oil Creek in Titusville.

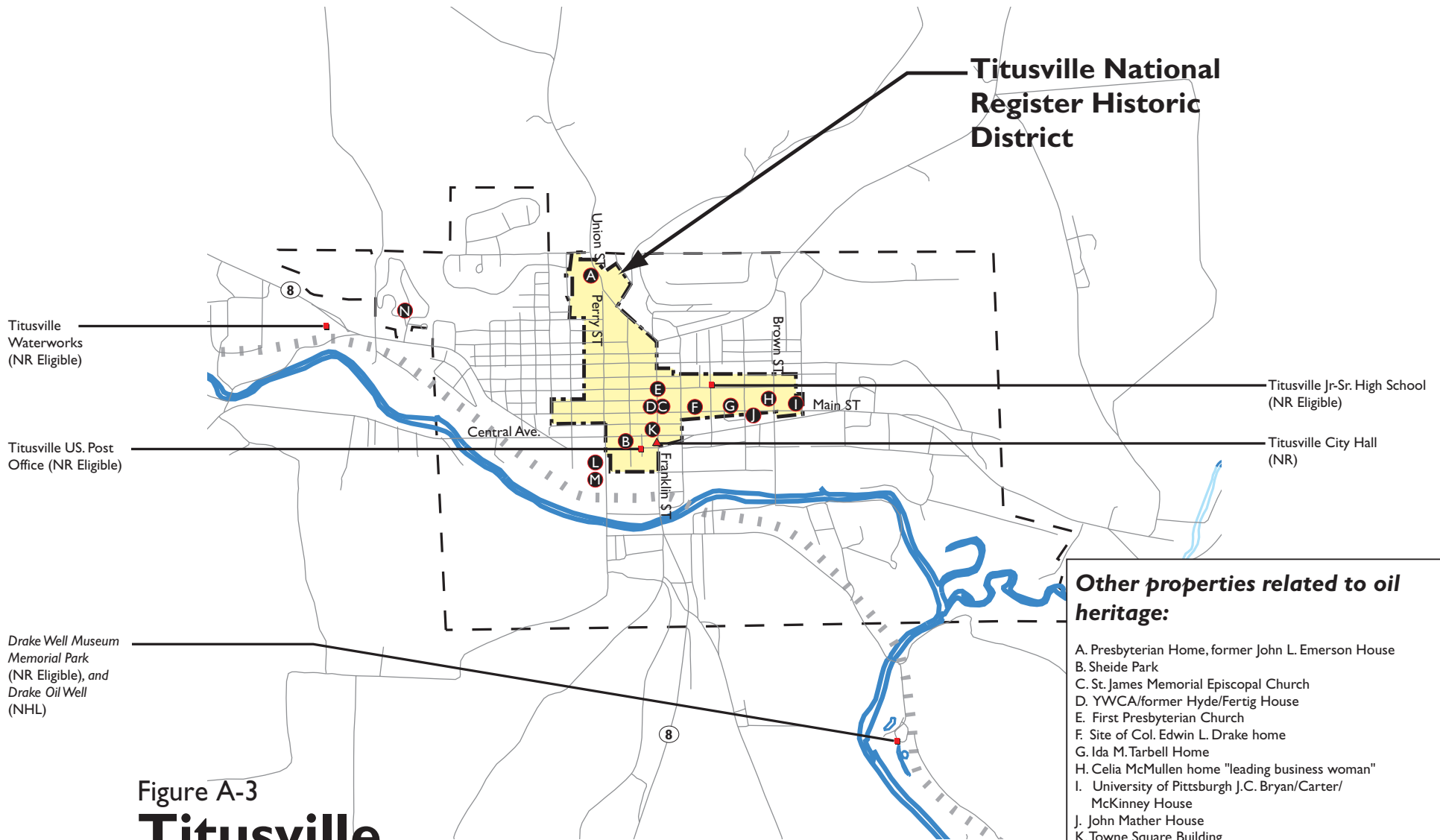


Figure A-3
Titusville

National Register listed and eligible properties & other sites related to oil heritage



Oil City

Oil City, once called the "Hub of Oildom," still has much of the architecture associated with the corporate infrastructure that made it the center of gravity of the oil industry at the height of the region's national importance. Extant resources and settings from the city's financial, commercial and transportation history are in strong evidence. Figure A-4 indicates key resource in Oil City.

Perhaps most significant are Standard Oil's National Transit Building and Annex and the city's prominent rail and auto bridges that span the Allegheny River and Oil Creek. Following the relocation of Quaker State to Texas the company's headquarters, in the heart of Oil City, was sold to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is occupied by PennDOT and the CareerLink. Sites of former commercial and industrial concerns include the Oil City Boiler Works, Joseph Reid Gas Engine Works, and the former United Natural Gas Company Building, now the Greenmont Building. Oil City also has intact settings that portray the heritage of urban working families and their ethnic affiliations, particularly on the Northside, in the vicinity of Emerald and Pulaski Streets, and with prominent resources such as St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, an important visual landmark for the city. Bissell Street in the vicinity of Harriot Avenue contains excellent examples of Victorian residential architecture, though the Southside has a greater concentration of outstanding residences.

The North Side, or business section, of Oil City has a substantially intact setting along Seneca and Elm Streets, with minor intrusions of large-scale development toward Duncomb Street. Contemporary buildings characterize the entry to the city via Route 8 from the north, until the Art Deco Drake Building/Theatre. The steel complex behind the Drake is a powerful setting in relationship to the Northside residential district. Proceeding up Seneca Street, the buildings in the vicinity of the Venango Museum are interrupted by contemporary retail development and a large-scale parking garage. Along Elm Street, the relocation of the facade of an early service station – originally part of the Quaker State headquarters complex -- initiates the run of largely intact commercial buildings down to Center Street. The entry to the city from the south via Main and across the Center Street Bridge is powerful as it provides a good sense of the relationship of the river, the railroad, and the mercantile section of the city. The river and the creek are highly visible at the corner of Center and Seneca Streets, an important setting with the presence of the National Transit Building and Annex. At the same corner is the site of the first Oil Exchange, now known as Cornplanter Square. The historic character of the section near the State Street Bridge in the vicinity of the City Hall and Arlington Hotel has been very adversely impacted by urban renewal, with extensive large-scale development.

The South Side of Oil City retains substantial intact residential and institutional areas that provide evidence of the wealth that was generated in the city in its 19th century heyday and continuing into the early 20th century. The area, which sits on the banks of the Allegheny and arrays around Central Avenue, provides a setting in which to understand the physical and social patterns of the four villages that joined to form this portion of Oil City. The residential district along First, Second and Third Streets between Wyllis and Petroleum Streets is largely intact, with additional contributing buildings up to Fifth Street and below First to the river. The residential area bounded

by Front, Division, West Third and Central is largely intact with numerous excellent examples of late 19th and early 20th century residential architecture. Several of the residential streets feature brick paving. The Oil City Public Library and two historic churches make the vicinity of Central and West Streets an important setting, though there are large scale and contemporary developments, such as the YMCA, in close proximity. This setting extends through the Commercial District arrays itself around First Street down to Wilson. The residential area to the east of Central also contains intact settings of varying quality. Entering the South Side via the Petroleum Street and State Street bridges provide distinctly different impressions: the entry from Route 8 over the Petroleum Street bridge provides a cohesive neighborhood context; entry via the State Street bridge provides a commercial context, views of the river, and the site of the Third Ward Landings. However, the view from State Street bridge provides a more contemporary and less interesting landscape.

In the time since preparation of the 1994 Management Action Plan for the Oil Heritage Region, considerable effort has gone into adding some of these resources to the National Register of Historic Places, including the Oil City Downtown Commercial Historic District, the Oil City North Side Historic District, the Oil City South Side Historic District, and designation of the Oil City Library, on Central Avenue, as eligible for National Register listing. Additionally, public entities have collaborated to achieve substantial rehabilitation of the National Transit Building as a center for community organizations and related uses, preserving what is arguably the most significant structure in the community, due to its association with John D. Rockefeller.

**Oil City Downtown
Commercial
National Register
Historic District**

**Oil City North Side
National Register
Historic District**

**Oil City South Side
National Register
Historic District**

United Natural Gas
Company
(NR Eligible)

Oil City U.S. Post
Office (currently
Venango Museum)
(NR)

C.F. Kramer, Bldg
(NR Eligible)

Oil City Library
(NR Eligible)

Christ Episcopal
Church
(NR Eligible)

Oil City Armory
(NR)

National Transit Building
and Annex
(NR)

National Transit Pump &
Machine Company
(NR Eligible)

Imperial Works of the
Oil Well Supply
(NR Eligible)

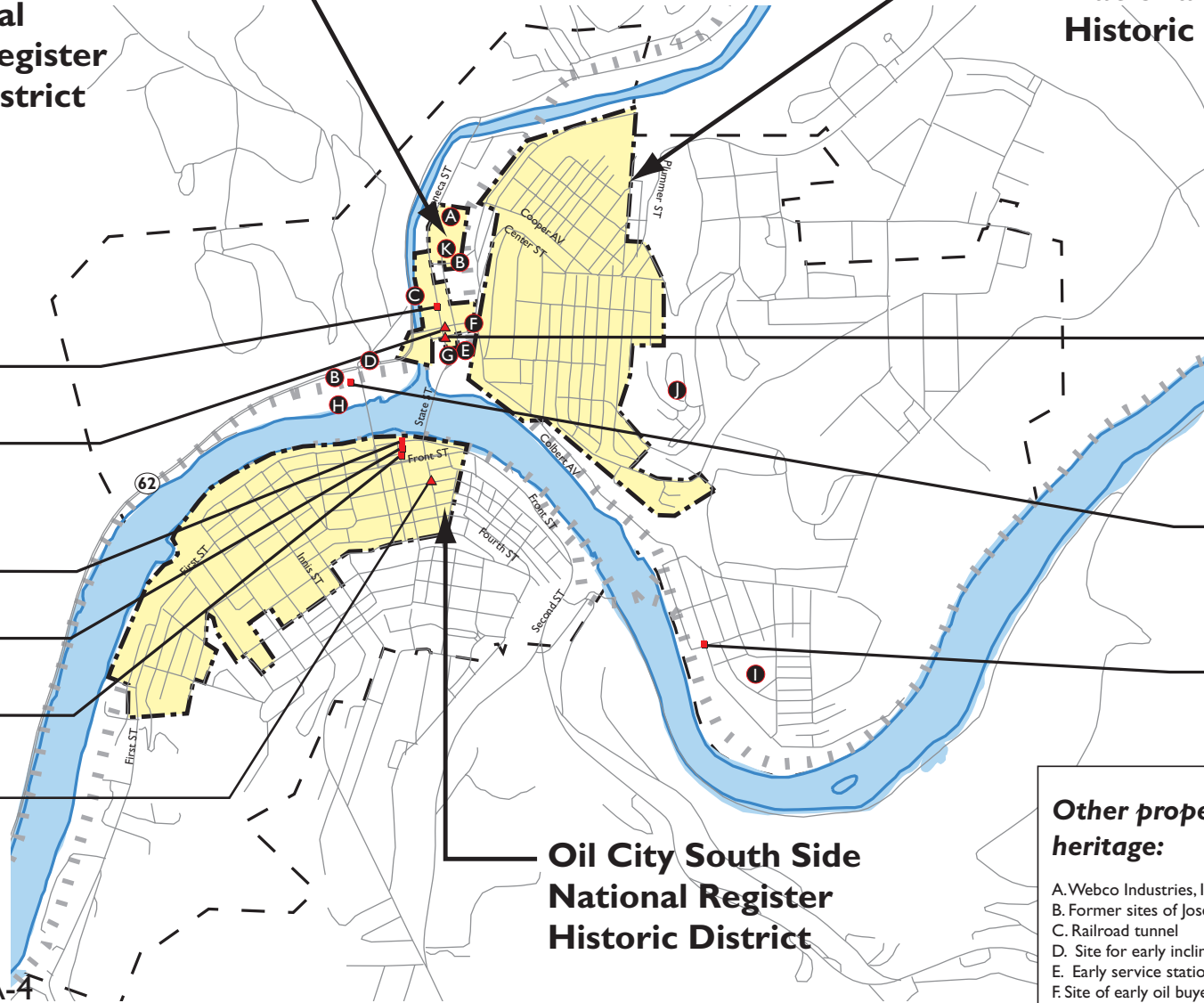
**Other properties related to oil
heritage:**

- A. Webco Industries, Inc. (former Oil City boiler works)
- B. Former sites of Joseph Reid gas engine works - 2 sites
- C. Railroad tunnel
- D. Site for early incline railway to the top of Clark Summit
- E. Early service station relocated to serve as visitor center
- F. Site of early oil buyers' offices (pre-Standard Oil)
- G. Jacob Vandergrift Historic Marker
- H. 1860s Boat Landings
- I. Siverly Neighborhood of Workers Housing
- J. Hasson Cemetery
- K. Drake Theatre

Figure A-4
Oil City

**National Register listed and eligible properties &
other sites related to oil heritage**

0' 2000'



Franklin

Franklin, the former frontier of the region, still possesses the political infrastructure that has made it strategically and politically important. Franklin's strategic role is conveyed by its setting at the confluence of French Creek and the Allegheny River, prompting the construction of four colonial forts - the French built Fort Machault at 6th and Elk and the British built Fort Venango, also at 6th and Elk, and Fort Franklin at the corner of 13th and Franklin Ave. at French Creek. This latter site is now developed as a park. The remains of the last fort, built by the United States, and known as the "Old Garrison" are on the banks of the River at the base of 10th street in an intact residential setting. The Franklin line of the French Creek Canal, which originally extended over 22 miles to Meadville, also speaks of the city's strategic importance.

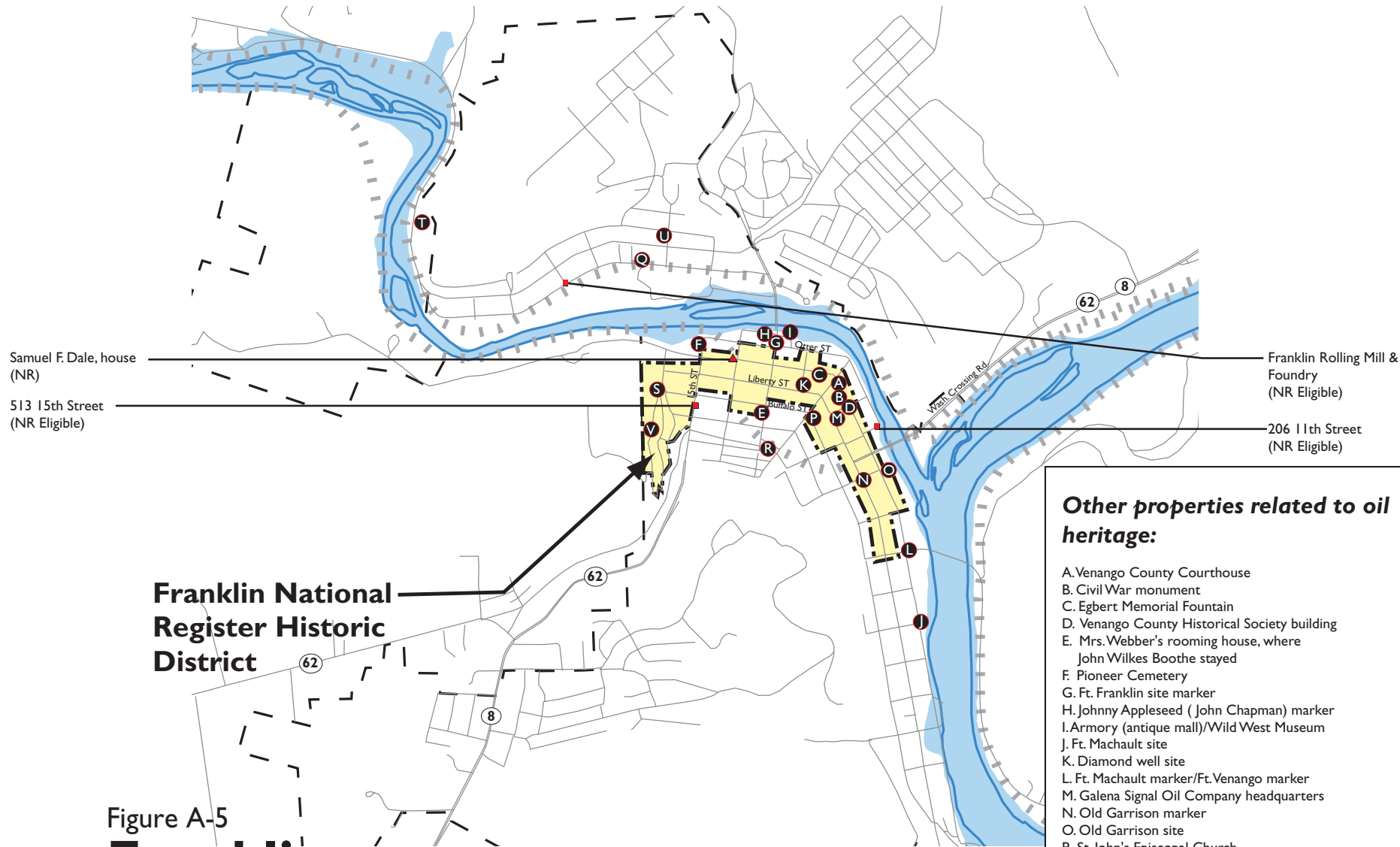
The city's elegant layout, conceived by Andrew Ellicott and inspired by L'Enfant's plan for Washington D.C., includes broad, well planted boulevards and axial streets which provide dramatic view corridors punctuated by powerful architecture. Complementing the plan are impressive government structures, most notably the signature brick Italianate Venango County Courthouse and the Romanesque Venango County Jail. Figure A-5 indicates key resources in Franklin.

Franklin's National Register Historic District is perhaps the most impressive in the region, including 35 blocks of the downtown area and approximately 200 structures. This district is a clear manifestation of the wealth that was generated through the oil industry, particularly in areas such as Miller Park and in the large Victorian Mansions that line Liberty and Elk Streets. The entry into the city via Route 8 from the south provides a sense of the relationship of the city to the natural landscape. The dramatic topographic drop into the city provides views of the hills and the valley in which Franklin is set. Historic residential structures in Franklin span an entire century from 1830 to 1930, representing a wide range of styles with exceptional examples of Victorian architecture, including Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Residential neighborhoods clustered along Liberty and Elk Streets provide large areas of intact residential settings with a distinctly urban character.

Franklin has a number of powerful settings, particularly along Route 8 (15th and Liberty Streets) as it travels through the city. Liberty Street provides a sequence of intact settings, with minor contemporary intrusions, such as the Quality Inn and some contemporary development at the corner of 13th street. The residential district extends back off of Liberty Street for several blocks. Pioneer Cemetery, site of the oldest graves in the City, sits at 15th and Otter Streets within the residential setting. The blocks between 13th and 12th feature a very well secured commercial and retail district with some larger scale incompatible structures along 13th Street.

West Park, featuring the Civil War Monument, the Egbert Memorial Fountain, and the Courthouse provide another intact setting. Adjacent to the Courthouse within this setting are the Venango County Historical Society building, the oldest home in the city, and the former Galena Signal Oil Company Headquarters, which has been rehabilitated for residential and office use and is now known as the Galena-Dockery Building. The city's Third Ward across French Creek has a relatively intact residential setting with modest scale worker housing and institutional and commercial structures. Two structures that were associated with the Galena Signal Oil Company are located

along Atlantic Avenue. The entry to the city from the north via Routes 8 and 62 reveals lost fabric and larger retail development. The setting directly on the Creek is largely industrial, featuring the city's industrial incubator project and the former U.S. Steel plant, now Franklin Industries, along French Creek.



Emlenton

Emlenton, nestled at a bend in the Allegheny River, still possesses the beautiful natural setting, extensive natural resources, and cohesive community setting which made it an important center of trade and production in support of the Oil industry. The borough's relationship to the River provides a clear understanding of dependence of the settlement and its industry to the natural setting. The proximity to waterpower and vast supplies of lumber gave birth to the region's iron industry -- concentrated in Cranberry and Rockland Townships. Eventually, this industry came to serve the demands of the ever-growing oil industry, its raw materials flowing to final production at Emlenton. The borough's mills, foundries and machine shops transformed these raw materials into the tools and well equipment that sustained the region's oil production.

Emlenton soon became home to many wealthy industrialists and entrepreneurs, such as the Crawford brothers, who are credited with the progressive development of the area's natural gas industry. This contained industrial culture nurtured the thirteen firms from which Quaker State was born, although the company has ceased its operations within the region. Figure A-6 shows key resources in Franklin.

Today Emlenton maintains its strong association to the river and its natural setting. The borough is a popular vacation destination, with river based "camps", bed & breakfasts, canoeing, fishing and biking/hiking trails and parkland along River Street. Emlenton arrays itself along the Allegheny in a compact and cohesive setting. Its built environment, limited by its dramatic topographic setting, makes the community easily understandable. Entry into Emlenton via 322/38 traverses lovely natural and rural settings. Descending the hill into Emlenton and onto Main Street introduces a relatively intact historic fabric, with the Old Emlenton Mill to one side. The intact district proceeds down Main Street through a small retail/commercial district with a good collection of frame and brick commercial structures. Landmarks along Main Street include the classical Mellon Bank building and the sites of a number of former residential, commercial and industrial concerns, including the first foundry in Emlenton and the Crawford house. Continuing down Main Street past the waterworks leads to the gate of the PetroWax plant, site of the original Quaker State Refinery. The former refinery and the adjacent worker housing known as Irish Town were closely related. Efforts are now underway to extend the regional trail along the Allegheny through the former refinery, achieving connection between Emlenton and Oil City, upriver.

Entering the city from 1-80 via the 5th Street Bridge affords a good vantage of the entire borough and its setting, but also exposes views of parking lots and incompatible contemporary development at the corner of 5th and Main Street. Proceeding up 5th Street at Hill Street is an interesting setting with a park and extant structures on all corners, including the a Fire House and a former Elementary School, now converted to the Crawford Center, a multi-purpose building which includes exhibits on the oil industry as well as the Pumping Jack Museum. Several residential areas march up the hill along Kerr Street, some with elaborate Greek Revival and Victorian architecture, others more modest. The home of H.J. Crawford sits at the corner of Hill and Seventh Streets, number 619. The Emlenton National Register Historic District, including many of the above resources, was designated in 1997.

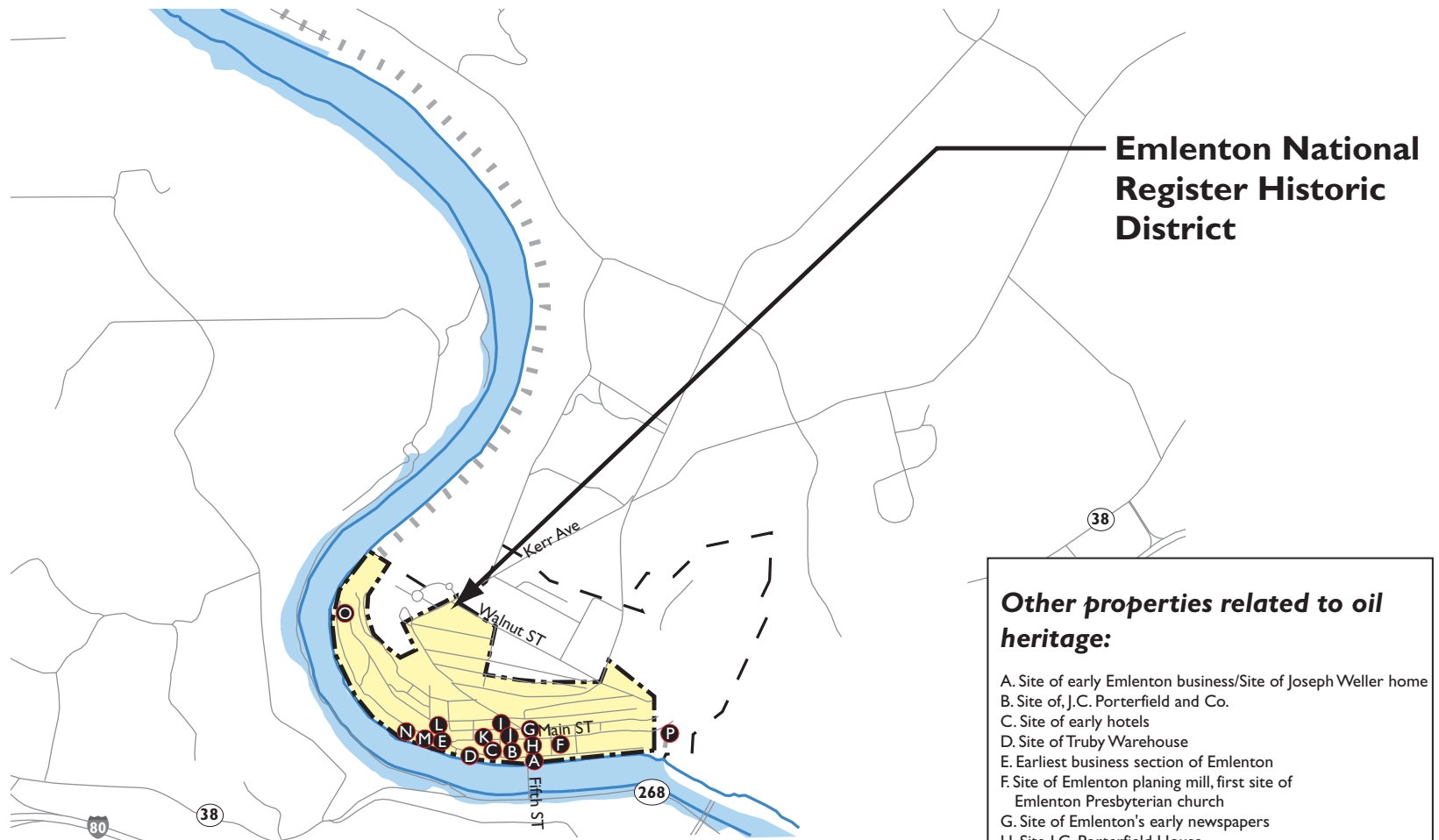


Figure A-6
Emlenton

National Register listed and eligible properties & other sites related to oil heritage



Other Sites Related to the Oil Industry

The remnants of the oil industry are evident across the region. Sites of former boom settlements, oil farms, and inactive oil fields provide palpable reminders of ways of life and work in the region. The majority of these sites are located in the Oil Creek Valley, where there are areas of concentrated historic and cultural resources. However, such sites exist throughout the region. A survey of publications identified nine categories of these resources: historic remains, existing rigs, sites of famous wells, oil drilling equipment, collections of artifacts, archaeological sites (oil pits), oil boom settlements and farms, active oil leases, and refineries.

3.1 *Historic Remains*

A map of oil field resources, included in the 1994 Plan historic resource inventory, identified a number of sites which contain historic remains from the oil industry, from farmhouses to well site structures. Several hold greater interpretive potential, based on their proximity to concentrations of other resources and their accessibility, including the Brewer, Watson & Co. Lower Mill and the Pond Freshet Dam which is located within the Oil Creek State Park and along the route of the OC&T Railroad.

3.2 *Oil Boom Settlements and Farms*

In addition to Pithole, there are several sites of former settlements that also have a clustering of historic and cultural resources, from historic remains to the sites of famous wells. They are also accessible via the Oil Creek and Titusville Railroad. These include: Petroleum Centre, currently managed by the State as part of Oil Creek State Park. This site is located at the center of the park and is highly accessible via road and the OC&T Railroad. Other sites include: (1) Wildcat Hollow, in close proximity to Petroleum Centre, which includes historic remains and the operating Dalzell lease, both with interpretive potential; (2) Miller Farm and the terminus/path of the Van Syckel Pipeline which connects it to Pithole; (3) Rynd Farm which is the current terminus of the OC&T RR and is on the proposed pedestrian /bicycle path and now includes Coal Oil Johnny's home which was relocated to a site near the rail terminus.

3.3 *Refineries*

Although Pennzoil's Rouseville Refinery was active in 1994, when the Management Plan was prepared, operations there have ceased and the facilities have been demolished or removed. Former refinery sites in both Titusville (TransPenn Wax) and Emlenton (PetroWax) also offer interpretive opportunities. The former Wolf's Head/Atlantic Refinery, now the Bareco packaging plant, is presently inactive and owned by Calumet. Sites of other former refinery sites are identified throughout the region.

3.4 *Operating Leases*

The region has a number of operating oil leases which have been in continuous operation since the region's boom days. These include the Beck and Baily Oil Leases in Pleasantville, Dalzell lease, operated by Charley Straub, and the Old Rynd Lease, which are in the vicinity of Petroleum Centre and Rynd Farm. Closer to Rouseville are the McClintock Lease and the Wallace Lease, operated by Donald Taylor, who inherited the

lease from his father. The Drake Well Museum has, within its extensive collection of oral and video histories, documentation of all of these leases and conversations with their operators. The interpretive and educational value of these leases could be great if integrated in the overall Heritage Park program, however, they remain privately held, and any further discussion about their role would have to include the owners and operators.