

KILGORE

KILGORE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION No. 1.

MARKER LOCATION: 900 Block of Kilgore St. and HIGHWAY 42 -
Kilgore.

Oil derrick and wellhead dating from 1933 and moved to this site in February 1987 as a part of Kilgore's Main Street Project. The first derrick to be erected in the effort to restore part of Kilgore's heritage. (1987)

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(entire text of private marker)

On February 17, 1987, this oilfield derrick was dedicated as a gift to the city of Kilgore and its citizens. Originally sited on the no. 12 well on the Muckleroy lease in 1933 and later moved to the no. 10 well on the Peterson lease in 1956, this derrick was donated by the Chevron Oil Company as the first derrick to be reconstructed through the Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation. This derrick was operated by the Gulf Oil Company from 1933 through its retirement in 1936 (?) as the last derrick standing on the Chevron Properties in the Historic East Texas Oil Field. It is appropriate that it be the first derrick erected in the effort to restore part of Kilgore's heritage.

National Supply Company, which has operated continuously in Kilgore since 1925, provided the wellhead "christmas tree" from its stock of retired East Texas producing equipment. This unit actually served various wells in the East Texas Field and was placed here as a working unit.

The site for the derrick and its erection was provided by the Kilgore First National Bank. Serving Kilgore since 1906, the bank was moved from its original site to allow for drilling through its lobby floor during the "Boom" in the 1930's

This cooperative effort, coordinated by the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce, was done in the hopes of preserving part of the unique history of Kilgore and to encourage others to lend their support to the Main Street Project of Kilgore, Texas.