

Edgar Filing: HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO - Form SC 13G/A

HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO

Form SC 13G/A

April 11, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

Schedule 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment 1 )

HOU Exploration Co  
(Name of Issuer)

COM  
(Title of Class of Securities)

442120101  
(CUSIP Number)

March 31, 2005  
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this  
Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting  
person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class  
of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which  
would alter the disclosures provided in a prior page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not  
be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that  
section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act  
(however, see the Notes).

CUSIP No. 442120101  
-----

-----  
(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS, NA., 943112180

-----  
(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /

(b) /X/

-----  
(3) SEC Use Only

-----  
(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

U.S.A.

-----  
Number of Shares

(5) Sole Voting Power

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Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

2,577,850

(6) Shared Voting Power  
-

(7) Sole Dispositive Power  
2,770,448

(8) Shared Dispositive Power  
-

(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person  
2,770,448

(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
9.74%

(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
BK

CUSIP No. 442120101

(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

BARCLAYS GLOBAL FUND ADVISORS

(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*  
(a) / /  
(b) /X/

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization  
U.S.A.

Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power  
165,099

(6) Shared Voting Power  
-

(7) Sole Dispositive Power  
165,099

(8) Shared Dispositive Power  
-

(9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person  
165,099

(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

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(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.58%

(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
IA

CUSIP No. 442120101  
-----

(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).  
  
BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS, LTD

(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*  
(a) / /  
(b) /X/

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization  
England

Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power

(6) Shared Voting Power  
-

(7) Sole Dispositive Power

(8) Shared Dispositive Power  
-

(9) Aggregate

(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.00%

(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
BK

CUSIP No. 442120101  
-----

(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).  
  
BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS JAPAN TRUST AND BANKING COMPANY LIMITED

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(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /

(b) /X/

-----  
(3) SEC Use Only

-----  
(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

Japan

-----  
Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power

-----  
(6) Shared Voting Power

-

-----  
(7) Sole Dispositive Power

-----  
(8) Shared Dispositive Power

-

-----  
(9) Aggregate

-----  
(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

-----  
(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)

0.00%

-----  
(12) Type of Reporting Person\*

BK

-----  
CUSIP No. 442120101  
-----

-----  
(1) Names of Reporting Persons.

I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

BARCLAYS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

-----  
(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /

(b) /X/

-----  
(3) SEC Use Only

-----  
(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

England

-----  
Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power

-----  
(6) Shared Voting Power

-

-----  
(7) Sole Dispositive Power

-----  
(8) Shared Dispositive Power

-

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(9) Aggregate

(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.00%

(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
BK

CUSIP No. 442120101

(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

BARCLAYS BANK PLC

(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /  
(b) /X/

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization  
England

Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power

(6) Shared Voting Power  
-

(7) Sole Dispositive Power

(8) Shared Dispositive Power  
-

(9) Aggregate

(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.00%

(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
BK

CUSIP No. 442120101

(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

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BARCLAYS CAPITAL SECURITIES LIMITED

(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*  
(a) / /  
(b) /X/

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization  
England.

Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power  
9,778

(6) Shared Voting Power  
-

(7) Sole Dispositive Power  
9,778

(8) Shared Dispositive Power  
-

(9) Aggregate  
9,778

(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.03%

(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
BK

CUSIP No. 442120101

(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

BARCLAYS CAPITAL INC

(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*  
(a) / /  
(b) /X/

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization  
U.S.A.

Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power

(6) Shared Voting Power  
-

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(7) Sole Dispositive Power

(8) Shared Dispositive Power

-

(9) Aggregate

(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.00%

(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
BD

CUSIP No. 442120101

(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

BARCLAYS PRIVATE BANK & TRUST (ISLE OF MAN) LIMITED

(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /

(b) /X/

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization  
England.

Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power

(6) Shared Voting Power

-

(7) Sole Dispositive Power

(8) Shared Dispositive Power

-

(9) Aggregate

(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.00%

(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
BK

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CUSIP No. 442120101  
-----

-----  
(1) Names of Reporting Persons.

I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

BARCLAYS PRIVATE BANK AND TRUST (JERSEY) LIMITED

-----  
(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /

(b) /X/

-----  
(3) SEC Use Only

-----  
(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

England

-----  
Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power

-----  
(6) Shared Voting Power

-

-----  
(7) Sole Dispositive Power

-----  
(8) Shared Dispositive Power

-

-----  
(9) Aggregate

-----  
(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

-----  
(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)

0.00%

-----  
(12) Type of Reporting Person\*

BK

-----  
CUSIP No. 442120101  
-----

-----  
(1) Names of Reporting Persons.

I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

BARCLAYS BANK TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

-----  
(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /

(b) /X/

-----  
(3) SEC Use Only

-----  
(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

England

-----  
Number of Shares

(5) Sole Voting Power



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Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

-----  
(6) Shared Voting Power

-

-----  
(7) Sole Dispositive Power

-----  
(8) Shared Dispositive Power

-

-----  
(9) Aggregate

-----  
(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

-----  
(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.00%

-----  
(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
BK

-----  
CUSIP No. 442120101  
-----

-----  
(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

BARCLAYS BANK (Suisse) SA

-----  
(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /

(b) /X/

-----  
(3) SEC Use Only

-----  
(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization  
Switzerland

-----  
Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

-----  
(5) Sole Voting Power

-----  
(6) Shared Voting Power

-

-----  
(7) Sole Dispositive Power

-----  
(8) Shared Dispositive Power

-

-----  
(9) Aggregate

-----  
(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

-----  
(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.00%

-----  
(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
BK

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-----  
CUSIP No.            442120101  
-----

-----  
(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
      I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

      BARCLAYS PRIVATE BANK LIMITED

-----  
(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /

(b) /X/

-----  
(3) SEC Use Only

-----  
(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

      England

-----  
Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power

-----  
(6) Shared Voting Power

-

-----  
(7) Sole Dispositive Power

-----  
(8) Shared Dispositive Power

-

-----  
(9) Aggregate

-----  
(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

-----  
(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)

      0.00%

-----  
(12) Type of Reporting Person\*

      BK

-----  
CUSIP No.            442120101  
-----

-----  
(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
      I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

      BRONCO (BARCLAYS CAYMAN) LIMITED

-----  
(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /

(b) /X/

-----  
(3) SEC Use Only

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(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization  
Cayman Islands

Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power

(6) Shared Voting Power

-

(7) Sole Dispositive Power

(8) Shared Dispositive Power

-

(9) Aggregate

(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.00%

(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
OH

CUSIP No. 442120101

(1) Names of Reporting Persons.

I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

PALOMINO LIMITED

(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /

(b) /X/

(3) SEC Use Only

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization  
Cayman Islands

Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power

71,400

(6) Shared Voting Power

-

(7) Sole Dispositive Power

71,400

(8) Shared Dispositive Power

-

(9) Aggregate

71,400

(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*

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-----  
(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.25%

-----  
(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
OH  
-----

CUSIP No. 442120101  
-----

-----  
(1) Names of Reporting Persons.  
I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only).

HYMF LIMITED  
-----

(2) Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group\*

(a) / /

(b) /X/

-----  
(3) SEC Use Only  
-----

(4) Citizenship or Place of Organization  
Cayman Islands  
-----

Number of Shares  
Beneficially Owned  
by Each Reporting  
Person With

(5) Sole Voting Power  
-----

(6) Shared Voting Power  
-----

-

(7) Sole Dispositive Power  
-----

(8) Shared Dispositive Power  
-----

-

-----  
(9) Aggregate  
-----

(10) Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares\*  
-----

(11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)  
0.00%

-----  
(12) Type of Reporting Person\*  
OH  
-----

ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER  
HOU Exploration Co  
-----

ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219  
-----

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS, NA  
-----

ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
-----

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45 Fremont Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

-----  
ITEM 2(C).           CITIZENSHIP  
                          U.S.A  
-----

ITEM 2(D).           TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
                          COM  
-----

ITEM 2(E).           CUSIP NUMBER  
                          442120101  
-----

ITEM 3.               IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR  
13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A

- (a) // Broker or Dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act  
(15 U.S.C. 78o).
- (b) /X/ Bank as defined in section 3(a) (6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (c) // Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a) (19) of the Act  
(15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (d) // Investment Company registered under section 8 of the Investment  
Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8).
- (e) // Investment Adviser in accordance with section 240.13d(b) (1) (ii) (E).
- (f) // Employee Benefit Plan or endowment fund in accordance with section  
240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (F).
- (g) // Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance with section  
240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (G).
- (h) // A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit  
Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).
- (i) // A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment  
company under section 3(c) (14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940  
(15U.S.C. 80a-3).
- (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (J)

ITEM 1(A).           NAME OF ISSUER  
                          HOU Exploration Co  
-----

ITEM 1(B).           ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
                          1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
                          HOUSTON TX 77002-5219  
-----

ITEM 2(A).           NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
                          BARCLAYS GLOBAL FUND ADVISORS  
-----

ITEM 2(B).           ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
                          45 Fremont Street  
                          San Francisco, CA 94105  
-----

ITEM 2(C).           CITIZENSHIP  
                          U.S.A  
-----

ITEM 2(D).           TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
                          COM  
-----

ITEM 2(E).           CUSIP NUMBER  
                          442120101  
-----

ITEM 3.               IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR  
13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A

- (a) // Broker or Dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act  
(15 U.S.C. 78o).

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- (b) // Bank as defined in section 3(a) (6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (c) // Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a) (19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (d) // Investment Company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8).
- (e) /X/ Investment Adviser in accordance with section 240.13d(b) (1) (ii) (E).
- (f) // Employee Benefit Plan or endowment fund in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (F).
- (g) // Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (G).
- (h) // A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).
- (i) // A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c) (14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15U.S.C. 80a-3).
- (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (J)

ITEM 1(A).           NAME OF ISSUER  
                    HOU Exploration Co

---

ITEM 1(B).           ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
                    1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
                    HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

---

ITEM 2(A).           NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
                    BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS, LTD

---

ITEM 2(B).           ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
                    Murray House  
                    1 Royal Mint Court  
                    LONDON, EC3N 4HH

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ITEM 2(C).           CITIZENSHIP  
                    England

---

ITEM 2(D).           TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
                    COM

---

ITEM 2(E).           CUSIP NUMBER  
                    442120101

---

ITEM 3.             IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR 13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A

- (a) // Broker or Dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o).
- (b) /X/ Bank as defined in section 3(a) (6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (c) // Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a) (19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (d) // Investment Company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8).
- (e) // Investment Adviser in accordance with section 240.13d(b) (1) (ii) (E).
- (f) // Employee Benefit Plan or endowment fund in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (F).
- (g) // Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (G).
- (h) // A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).
- (i) // A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c) (14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15U.S.C. 80a-3).
- (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (J)

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ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER  
HOU Exploration Co

---

ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

---

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
BARCLAYS GLOBAL INVESTORS JAPAN TRUST AND BANKING COMPANY LIMITED

---

ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
Ebisu Prime Square Tower 8th Floor  
1-1-39 Hiroo Shibuya-Ku  
Tokyo 150-0012 Japan

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ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP  
Japan

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ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COM

---

ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER  
442120101

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ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR  
13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A

- (a) // Broker or Dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act  
(15 U.S.C. 78o).
- (b) /X/ Bank as defined in section 3(a) (6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (c) // Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a) (19) of the Act  
(15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (d) // Investment Company registered under section 8 of the Investment  
Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8).
- (e) // Investment Adviser in accordance with section 240.13d(b) (1) (ii) (E).
- (f) // Employee Benefit Plan or endowment fund in accordance with section  
240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (F).
- (g) // Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance with section  
240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (G).
- (h) // A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit  
Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).
- (i) // A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment  
company under section 3(c) (14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940  
(15U.S.C. 80a-3).
- (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (J)

---

ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER  
HOU Exploration Co

---

ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

---

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
BARCLAYS LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

---

ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
Unicorn House 5th floor  
252 Romford Road, Forest Gate  
London 37 9JB England

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ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP  
England

ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COM

ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER  
442120101

ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR  
13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A

- (a) // Broker or Dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act  
(15 U.S.C. 78o).
- (b) /X/ Bank as defined in section 3(a) (6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (c) // Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a) (19) of the Act  
(15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (d) // Investment Company registered under section 8 of the Investment  
Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8).
- (e) // Investment Adviser in accordance with section 240.13d(b) (1) (ii) (E).
- (f) // Employee Benefit Plan or endowment fund in accordance with section  
240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (F).
- (g) // Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance with section  
240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (G).
- (h) // A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit  
Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).
- (i) // A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment  
company under section 3(c) (14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940  
(15U.S.C. 80a-3).
- (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (J)

ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER  
HOU Exploration Co

ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
BARCLAYS BANK PLC

ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
54 Lombard Street  
London, England EC3P 3AH

ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP  
England

ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COM

ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER  
442120101

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- (c) // Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a) (19) of the Act  
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- (d) // Investment Company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8).
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- (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J)

ITEM 1(A).           NAME OF ISSUER  
                    HOU Exploration Co

---

ITEM 1(B).           ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
                    1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
                    HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

---

ITEM 2(A).           NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
                    BARCLAYS CAPITAL SECURITIES LIMITED

---

ITEM 2(B).           ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
                    5 The North Colonnade  
                    Canary Wharf, London, England E14 4BB

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ITEM 2(C).           CITIZENSHIP  
                    England

---

ITEM 2(D).           TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
                    COM

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ITEM 2(E).           CUSIP NUMBER  
                    442120101

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ITEM 3.             IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR 13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A

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- (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J)

ITEM 1(A).           NAME OF ISSUER  
                    HOU Exploration Co

---

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ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
BARCLAYS CAPITAL INC

ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
200 Park Ave  
NY, NY 10166

ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP  
U.S.A.

ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COM

ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER  
442120101

ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR  
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- (c) // Insurance Company as defined in section 3(a) (19) of the Act  
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Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8).
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Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).
- (i) // A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment  
company under section 3(c) (14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940  
(15U.S.C. 80a-3).
- (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (J)

ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER  
HOU Exploration Co

ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
BARCLAYS PRIVATE BANK & TRUST (ISLE OF MAN) LIMITED

ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
4th Floor, Queen Victoria House  
Isle of Man, IM99 IDF

ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP  
England

ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COM

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ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER  
442120101

ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR  
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- (e) // Investment Adviser in accordance with section 240.13d(b) (1) (ii) (E).
- (f) // Employee Benefit Plan or endowment fund in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (F).
- (g) // Parent Holding Company or control person in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (G).
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- (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b) (1) (ii) (J)

ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER  
HOU Exploration Co

ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
BARCLAYS PRIVATE BANK AND TRUST (JERSEY) LIMITED

ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
39/41 Broad Street, St. Helier  
Jersey, Channel Islands JE4 8PU

ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP  
England

ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COM

ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER  
442120101

ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR  
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- 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G).
- (h) // A savings association as defined in section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).
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- (j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J)

ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER  
HOU Exploration Co

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ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

---

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
BARCLAYS BANK TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

---

ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
54 Lombard Street  
London, EC3P 3AH, England

---

ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP  
England

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ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COM

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ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER  
442120101

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ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER  
HOU Exploration Co

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ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

---

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
BARCLAYS BANK (Suisse) SA

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-----  
ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
10 rue d'Italie  
CH-1204 Geneva  
Switzerland  
-----

ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP  
Switzerland  
-----

ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COM  
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ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER  
442120101  
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ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER  
HOU Exploration Co  
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ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219  
-----

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
BARCLAYS PRIVATE BANK LIMITED  
-----

ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
59/60 Grosvenor Street  
London, W1X 9DA England  
-----

ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP  
England  
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ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COM  
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ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER  
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ITEM 1(A).           NAME OF ISSUER  
                    HOU Exploration Co

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ITEM 1(B).           ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
                    1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
                    HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

-----  
ITEM 2(A).           NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
                    BRONCO (BARCLAYS CAYMAN) LIMITED

-----  
ITEM 2(B).           ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
Walker House Mary Street PO Box 908 GT  
George Town, Grand Cayman (Cayman Islands)

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ITEM 2(C).           CITIZENSHIP  
                    Cayman Islands

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ITEM 2(D).           TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
                    COM

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ITEM 2(E).           CUSIP NUMBER  
                    442120101

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(j) // Group, in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J)

ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER  
HOU Exploration Co

ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
PALOMINO LIMITED

ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
Walker House Mary Street PO Box 908 GT  
George Town, Grand Cayman (Cayman Islands)

ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP  
Cayman Islands

ITEM 2(D). TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COM

ITEM 2(E). CUSIP NUMBER  
442120101

ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULES 13D-1(B), OR  
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ITEM 1(A). NAME OF ISSUER  
HOU Exploration Co

ITEM 1(B). ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 2000  
HOUSTON TX 77002-5219

ITEM 2(A). NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING  
HYMF LIMITED

ITEM 2(B). ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE, RESIDENCE  
Walker House Mary Street PO Box 908 GT  
George Town, Grand Cayman (Cayman Islands)

ITEM 2(C). CITIZENSHIP





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economic benefit of the beneficiaries of those accounts. See also Items 2(a) above.

ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY

Not applicable

ITEM 8. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Not applicable

ITEM 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP

Not applicable

ITEM 10. CERTIFICATION

(a) The following certification shall be included if the statement is filed pursuant to section 240.13d-1(b):

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

(b) The following certification shall be included if the statement is filed pursuant to section 240.13d-1(c):

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

April 11, 2005

-----  
Date

-----  
Signature

Nancy Yeung  
Manager of Global Accounting

-----  
Name/Title