HA-1556 c. 1930
Aberdeen Esso Service Station
Aberdeen
Private

The Aberdeen Esso Service Station is an unaltered example of the early gas stations which were built during the era of automobile proliferation between the World Wars. The decorative corbels of the canopy are a vestige of the high style architecture of the Beaux Arts school and may be an attempt by the designer to legitimize the service station as a permanent aesthetic form.
INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME
HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON
Aberdeen Esso Service Station

2 LOCATION

STREETS, NUMBER
NE cr. U.S. 40 and Bel Air Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Aberdeen

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF
Maryland

COUNTY
Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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<td>DETRICT</td>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
<td>OCCUPIED</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
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<td>_BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>MUSEUM</td>
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<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>COMMERCIAL</td>
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<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>EDUCATIONAL</td>
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<td>OBJECT</td>
<td>IN PROCESS</td>
<td>YES: RESTRICTED</td>
<td>ENTERTAINMENT</td>
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<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
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<td>NO</td>
<td>INDUSTRIAL</td>
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4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Milton Ustaszewski

STREET & NUMBER
503 Ponderosa Drive

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

VICINITY OF
Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Harford County Courthouse

STREETS, NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
The Aberdeen Esso Service Station is a concrete roadside automobile service station built about 1930 and located on the northeast corner of U.S. 40 and Bel Air Avenue in Aberdeen, Maryland.

The building, facing west across U.S. 40, is a one-story office with a covered driveway and gas pump island. A hipped tile roof covers the entire structure. The exterior is stucco.

The office section has plate glass windows facing the paved service area on the north, west, and south. A series of small square panes above a transom bar tops each window. The restrooms are behind the office area and are reached by separate outside doors on the north and south elevations. The doorways are placed within blind molded arches in the stucco. The overhanging roof of the driveway has foliated scroll corbels. The soffit of the overhang is covered with pressed metal sheets in a square-within-square pattern.

A three-bay garage of later date adjoins the office building on the north.
The Aberdeen Esso Service Station is an unaltered example of the early gas stations which were built during the era of automobile proliferation between the World Wars. The architecture of these stations is clearly an outgrowth of the needs of the automobile traveler: simple office functions, covered service area, public restrooms, and convenient access to gas pumps and the main highway. The decorative corbels of the Aberdeen Esso Station are a vestige of the high-style architecture of the Beaux-Arts school, a period drawing to a close at the time of the station's construction. They may be interpreted as an attempt to legitimize the service station as a permanent aesthetic form, the designer using recognizable features of a more established style in the absence of an evolved gas station architectural vocabulary.
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438
Aberdeen Esso Service Station, site
3 North Philadelphia Boulevard (US 40), Aberdeen
Sanborn Map, 1950, Sheet 2
Aberdeen Esso Service Station
Aberdeen, Md.
photo: Janet Davis
reg. loc.: MD Historical Trust
gen. view from north
Aberdeen Esso Service Station
Aberdeen M.D.
photo: Janet Davis
 heg loe: MD Historical Trust
detail of canopy
Aberdeen, Esso Service Station
Aberdeen, MD
photo: Janet Davis
eg. loc.: MD Historical Trust
detail, rest room
Aberdeen Esso Service Station
Aberdeen, MD
photo: Janet Davis
neg loc: MD Historical Trust
detail of canopy console