NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 1/24/08

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Roundtop Filling Station

other names/site number DX Gas Station/PU2026

2. Location

street & number Trammel Road at Roundtop Road, East of HWY 67/167 ☐ not for publication

city or town Sherwood ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72120

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for 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.)

Cathie Matthews 12/5/07

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
2	0	objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

"Arkansas Highway and Transportation – Era Architecture, 1910 – 1965."

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Spanish Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STUCCO
roof OTHER/composition shingle
other N/A

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

See Attached

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.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.

☐ **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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)
State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Architecture
Transportation

Period of Significance
1936 – 1958

Significant Dates
1936 – 1958

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)
N/A

Architect/Builder

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(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:

Roundtop Filling Station
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.1 acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	575153	3852321
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Chad Blackwell/Consultant; Edited by Sarah Jampole Marks/Survey Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 09.30.2007
street & number 323 Center Street, Ste. 1600 telephone 501.324.9874
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets (3)

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

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

name City of Sherwood
street & number 2199 East Kiehl Ave Telephone 501-835-6620
city or town Sherwood state AR zip code 72120

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

The Roundtop Filling Station is a representative example of an independent gas station constructed in an eclectic architectural style from the mid-1930s. Its defining characteristics, designed to provide visual interest to entice customers, include an octagonal main structure with a double-hipped turret roof, stucco walls, and arched window openings and entries.

ELABORATION

The Roundtop Filling Station represents an architectural style often referred to as Mimetic or Programmatic relative to oil corporation corporate architecture. Defining characteristics of the Mimetic/Programmatic style include: free form appearance, creative design that may mimic other building types, diverse materials, strong visual elements, and complex roof and architectural elements. The Roundtop Filling Station's defining characteristics are the octagonal main structure with a double-hipped turret roof, stucco walls, and arched windows and entries. Drawing architectural cues from gas station designs of the prior decade, Craftsman, and Spanish and English Revival Styles, the Roundtop Filling Station is an example of the free flowing architecture used by smaller independent gas and oil companies between the 1920s and the 1970s to highlight their distinctiveness. The distinctive double-hipped turret roof provided a visual attraction for automobile travelers on the road to and from Little Rock and St. Louis. The structure sits on a concrete slab foundation, has buff-colored stucco walls, arched window openings and entries, a complex roof, and exposed rafter tails. The site also has two historic features relating to its historic use, a lamp/sign post and a concrete gas island.

Front/East Façade

From the east façade, the only visible element of the property is the octagonal main room. A single, blue-painted metal door is visible on this façade, with a simple, red-painted wood door frame flush with the exterior of the building. Buff-colored stucco walls rise vertically to the top of the door frame and "mushroom" overhead to near horizontal. The roof is a double-hipped turret with exposed rafter tails and red composite shingles. The turret roof is capped by a wood "weathervane" decorative element. The wood finial is octagonal with a miniature "railing" one-third of the way up. The finial is capped by a "birdhouse" with a large wooden vane extending from one end.

Side/North Façade

The north façade begins with the octagonal room at the front and then extends west to a second structure connected by an arched covered walkthrough. On the north façade of the octagonal room is an arched window opening with a single, double-hung sash window with six panes in the top sash and six in the lower sash and a lunette window above. At the rear (West) end of the octagonal room, a walled walkway extends west at the same width with an arched opening facing north. A window bay extends past the façade topped by a wall dormer. The window in the bay appears to have been a fixed, single pane, but is not extant. The

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window frame is a simple wood molding flush with the façade. The next bay to the west is a single, double-hung sash window with a single pane over a single pane. The roof that extends from the octagonal main room is a gable to hipped roof with a roof crest that ends at an eave vent in the gable with two "hips" extending from the vent to the corners at the rear of the structure. The eave line extends further down along the extended bay than at the rear of the structure with exposed rafter tails along the whole facade.

Rear/West Façade

The rear or West façade has a single portico entrance extended past the rear façade capped with a rear gabled roof. The entrance has a single metal door framed by simple wood molding flush with the stucco exterior. The gable vent has horizontal slats with a thick wood molding above. The eaves of the main roof and those of the portico have exposed rafter tails.

Side/South Façade

The South façade is a mirror image of the North façade.

Interior

The large octagonal room is a single chamber with entrances on the east and west walls and windows on the north and south walls. The interior walls are plastered and the ceiling is flat. From the west door of the octagonal room, a covered walkway extends to the rear of the structure with arched openings to the north and south. Two restrooms are located at the end of the walkway. The restroom to the south has original fixtures and a south facing window, the north restroom has a north facing window and all fixtures have been removed. The last room is only accessible from the rear (west) and has windows on the north and south facades.

Alterations

Alterations to the structure appear to have been minimal. Protective steel bars have been added to the exterior of the north and south windows of the main octagonal room, installation date unknown. The wood finial/weathervane structure is a later addition, not appearing in historic photographs. The current composite shingle roof replaced an earlier composite shingle roof featuring octagonal shingles.

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CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Gas Island

At the front (east) of the property sits the original gas island. The island is a concrete block approximately six inches high, 12 feet long and two and a half feet wide with rounded ends. The original pumps have been removed, but there remain connectors for two pumps.

Light and Sign Post

Adjacent to the Gas Island on its south end, is the original light and sign post. The post has a pyramidal concrete base with a square metal post extending to a height of approximately 15 feet. The post curves at the top towards the east with a connector for the sign, which is not extant. From the curved portion, two round lights extend to the north and south for illuminating the sign.

INTEGRITY

The property appears to retain high integrity from its period of significance. The station remains on its original site and in its original form, maintaining high integrity in location, design, materials and workmanship. With the relocation of U. S. Highway 67, the setting has changed from a major thoroughfare to a suburban back road. The Roundtop Filling Station retains its integrity in feeling and association, despite the removal of some identifying features of the property as a gas station, such as the pumps, vehicle lift, and sign. Many of the modernizing features usually added to gas stations over time are absent.

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SUMMARY

The Roundtop Filling Station is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **statewide significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the development of Arkansas highway culture. The Roundtop Filling Station is also eligible for inclusion under **Criterion C** as a representative example of the Mimetic/Programmatic architecture style common in smaller oil company station designs from the 1920s through the 1960s. The Roundtop Filling Station is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing, "Arkansas Highway and Transportation – Era Architecture, 1910 – 1965," in conjunction with the historic context, "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910 – 1965."

ELABORATION

Town and County History

The town of Sherwood was incorporated in 1948. Prior to that date it was a small, largely rural community to the north of Little Rock. The City of Sherwood annexed the area where the Roundtop Filling Station sits in 1975. The property was given to the City of Sherwood by the heirs of the last private owner, George Brown.

History of the Property

In the 1920s, Gay Oil Company held a filling station design competition and the architect John Parks Almand won the competition with a "mushroom-shaped" design. Almand's design was a whimsical structure designed for small city lots and provided a distinctive visual element. While a significant departure from the Almand design, the Roundtop Filling Station draws an architectural reference to the station designs of independent oil and gas companies from the prior decade. While the large oil corporations established a standard corporate architecture, many smaller gas companies opted for whimsical designs that had a strong visual impact to entice customers. The Roundtop Filling Station is a part of this architectural trend.

According to the original operator of the station, W. D. Williford, the station was constructed in 1936 for Pierce Oil Company by Justin Matthews. Pierce Oil was one of the "baby Standards" that followed the breakup of the Standard Oil Trust in 1911. Pierce was awarded the area of operation of southern Missouri, Arkansas, western Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Pierce Oil went out of business in 1940 and was purchased by Sinclair Oil. From historic photographs, the Roundtop Station was also operated as a DX Oil Company station for a period. Williford operated the station from 1936 to 1972. Williford purchased the station in 1957 and sold it in 1999 to George Brown. Being ideally situated on U.S. Highway 67 between St. Louis and Little Rock, the station had a steady business with travelers. For the better part of the mid-twentieth century, it had the only modern restrooms between Searcy, Arkansas, and Little Rock. Williford recalls that "pumping 100 gallons of gas into the glass bowl pump was a BIG day." Electric pumps were

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installed in 1941. In later years, the station was operated as a DX Gas Station. Although the station has been out of service for several decades, it is the only such extant gas station designed in the Mimetic/ Programmatic architecture style—and in this particular shape and plan—in the state of Arkansas.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Roundtop Filling Station is significant due to its associations with transportation and highway culture in Arkansas during the period 1936-1972. It is also significant as a component of the historic context "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910-1965." The Roundtop Filling Station is a unique example of a common but varied architectural style, Mimetic/Programmatic, used by small gas companies in the 20th century, and because it is the only extant gas station of this architectural style, shape and plan, in the state of Arkansas, it has statewide significance. The Roundtop Station is also significant for its associations with the mid-century importance of Old U.S. Highway 67, the main thoroughfare from St. Louis to Little Rock.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

City of Sherwood. *The Signs Still Say Sherwood.* April 2002. Arrow Printing.

Duran, Ailene. *The Signs Say Sherwood.* November 1976. Heritage Press.

Jones, Dwayne W. A Field Guide to Texas Gas Stations. Historical Studies Report 2003-03. Texas Department of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division, Historical Studies Branch. 2003.

Pulaski County Deed Records.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is Lot A in Block 2 of the Trammel Addition situated within that part of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 10, Township 2 North, Range 11 West, lying West of Roundtop Drive, being a triangular tract of land fronting 117.5 feet on Trammel Road, 92.6 feet on Roundtop Drive/Old Hwy 67, and 98.4 feet on cut off from Roundtop to Trammel.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above verbal boundary description includes all land historically associated with the Roundtop Filling Station: Sherwood, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

Paulsboro Hillsboro
Gloucester Co., NJ
UTM:
15/475153/3865281