

Rison Cities Service Station  
Name of Property

Cleveland County, Arkansas  
County and State

NPS Form 10-900  
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Rison Cities Service Station  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 308 Main Street  not for publication  
city or town Rison  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Cleveland code 025 zip code 71665

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.)

Cashie Matthews 4/2/01  
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

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local       | <input type="checkbox"/> district               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 |

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
		structures
1		objects
3		Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965.

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
TRANSPORTATION: Road-related (vehicular)

OTHER: Storage

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:  
Tudor or English Revival

foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other \_\_\_\_\_

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**Narrative Description**

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

**SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS.**

**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.

**Levels of Significance** (local, state, national)  
LOCAL

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
TRANSPORTATION

**Period of Significance**  
1938-1951

**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** a birthplace or grave
- 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.

**Significant Dates**  
1938

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

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

**Architect/Builder**  
Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS.**

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Bibliography**

Abstract for the property of the Rison Cities Service Station.

Buie, Rufus. Interview by Kara Mills Oosterhous on 12 January 2001.

Guarino, Jean Louise. "Domestic-style Gas Station Recalls of Early Days of the Automobile." *Historic Illinois*, 23 (October 2000): 3-6.

Jakle, John A. and Keith A. Sculle. *The Gas Station in America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994.

Liebs, Chester H. *Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture*. Boston: Little Brown and Company (Inc.), 1985.

Margolies, John. *Pump and Circumstance: Glory Days of the Gas Station*. Boston: Little Brown and Company (Inc.), 1993.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>574848</u>	<u>3757666</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

All of the historic resources associated with the Rison Cities Service Station are located in the North 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 1, Township 9 South, Range 11 West in the said town of Rison, Arkansas.

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**Boundary Justification**

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

The selected boundary encompasses three historic resources, all of which are associated with Rison Cities Service Station and retain their integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, workmanship, association, and materials.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kara Mills Oosterhous, National Register & Survey Coordinator  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date March 15, 2001  
street & number 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**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 Rufus Buie  
street & number 302 Main Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Rison state AR zip code 71665

**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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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

The Rison Cities Service Station, located on the corner of Main Street and Magnolia Street, was built in 1938. The brick building sits atop a continuous concrete foundation and is topped by an intersecting gable roof. It is the best example of an English Revival building - as applied to an automobile era building - in Rison.

### ELABORATION

Located on the corner of Main Street and Magnolia Street, the Rison Cities Service Station is an excellent example of simplified English Revival architecture. The rectangular-shaped service station is constructed out of bricks and rests upon a continuous concrete foundation. The building supports an intersecting gable roof sheathed in composition shingles. In the apex of each of the three gables there is an oculus, that originally displayed a glass middle, surrounded by brick with exposed ends. The grease pit (object) and scars from where the gas pumps once stood (site) lend to the ambience of the days when this structure served as a service station and they are considered contributing resources.

### Southwest Elevation/Front

The southwest elevation fronts Main Street and it is through this entrance that the office was located. Two large, stationary, picture windows, supported by concrete sills flank the front door delineated by nine lights over two vertical panels. The defining feature of the front elevation is the steeply pitched intersecting front gable, one of the distinguishing characteristics of English Revival architecture.

### Southeast & Northwest Elevation/Sides

The side elevations are very simple as well as similar in fenestration. Originally each had one picture window supported by a concrete sill and one wood door. Currently the door opening on the southeast elevation is infilled with brick, whereas, the original door on the northwest elevation still remains intact. The window opening on the northwest elevation has been infilled with a window air-conditioning unit.

### Northeast/Rear Elevation

Four evenly spaced small windows adorn the north elevation. Each window is supported by a concrete sill and displays three vertical muntins. The original windows are still in place but have been covered with paint for privacy. Located directly behind the store is a large propane tank.

### Integrity

The Rison Cities Service Station possesses a strong sense of integrity. There have been no structural alterations to the building throughout the years, except for the infill of one door and the replacement of one window - each of these changes is reversible. The gas pumps were removed at an unknown date (pre 1975). The station maintains its integrity of location and setting, as it is located on the corner of Main Street and Magnolia Street approximately two blocks from downtown Rison. The building beautifully displays the workmanship, design

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features, and materials used at the time of its construction. It is very probable that this building was one of several prefabricated designs that could be ordered from a magazine and put together by local craftsmen. The physical features of this building such as steeply pitched gable roof convey the "feeling" or historic character of this building. Presently this building is vacant and used primarily for storage. The interior of the building is very plain with no lavish adornments.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

The Rison Cities Service Station is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion C** for its English Revival style. Constructed in 1938 this building served Rison as a gas station until 1969 when it was sold to the Elrod Company. This property is significant for its association with the development of highway travel in Arkansas and therefore, is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with the development of Arkansas highway culture, which is documented extensively in the multiple property listing. The Rison Cities Service 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

The town of Rison serves as the county seat for Cleveland County, which was established in 1873 as Dorsey County and renamed Cleveland County in 1885. Rison, like all towns in America, used a horse and carriage as the primary means of travel until the advent of the automobile in the late 1800s. Research has yet to reveal when the automobile first came to Rison, Arkansas, but it is accurate to say that by the 1920s automobiles were changing the landscape of Rison, Arkansas, as gas stations became a part of the built environment.

According to Jean Louise, a historical consultant, "After WWI, assembly lines began producing inexpensive cars at a rapid rate, highway construction boomed and the market for automobile petroleum exploded." During the 1920s many oil companies began refining their marketing strategies, which included adopting distinctive signs and gas station designs. The most prevalent style for gas stations in the 1920s was the domestic style - gas stations that resembled small houses with hipped or gabled roofs - these designs blended nicely with their residential surroundings. For motorist passing by these domestic designs triggered positive associations such as friendliness, comfort, and security. Many of these buildings were prefabricated and could be ordered from a magazine and built on site by local craftsmen. There are several Cities Service stations located throughout Arkansas that are designed in a plan almost identical to the Rison Cities Service Station; therefore, it is very possible that this station was a prefabricated design used for marketing purposes by those oil companies that were subsidiaries of Cities Service.

### Rison Cities Service Station

The Rison Cities Service Station, located at the corner of Main and Magnolia Streets in Rison, was constructed in 1938. Historically types of ownership often categorized historic gas stations. For instance land could be leased but improvements owned and the corporation could lease the land from a local owner usually at a stipulated annual rent for a set term of years with renewal options. Abstract research reveals that this was the case with the Rison Cities Service Station. The Arkansas Fuel Oil Company began leasing the property for \$500.00 cash and an additional sum of \$400.00 per year. The lease contract was negotiated so that the rent



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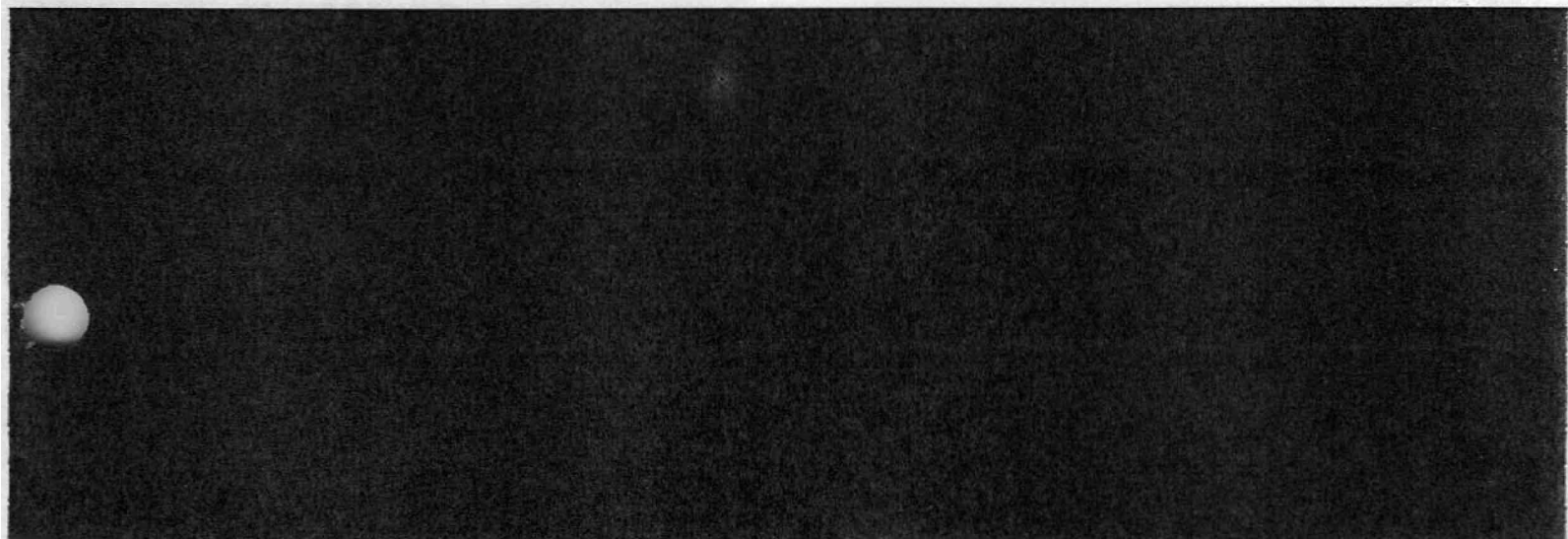
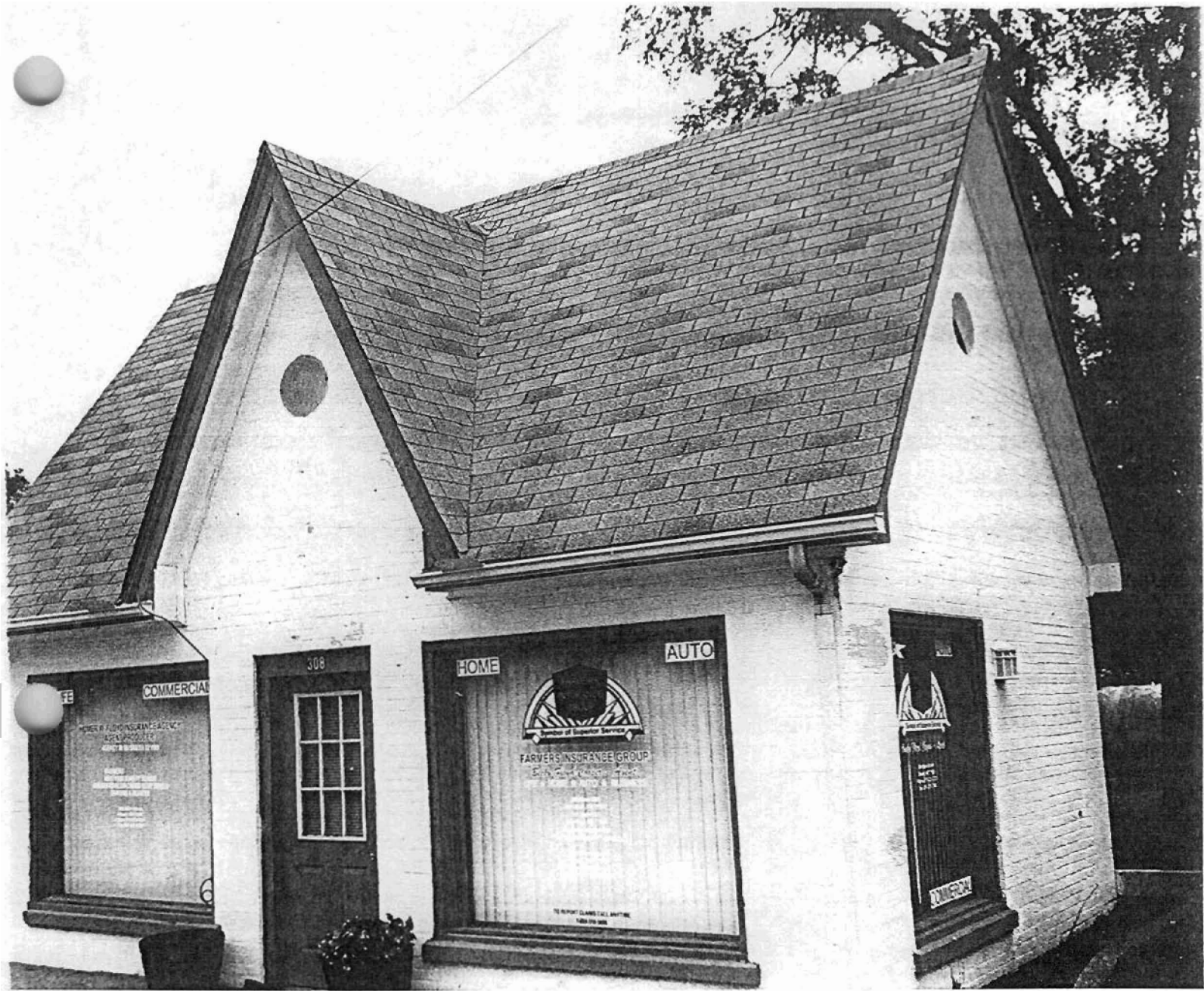
being paid by Arkansas Fuel and Oil Company could be applied towards the final asking price of \$2,500.00, and in 1943 Arkansas Fuel and Oil Company assumed sole ownership of the property.

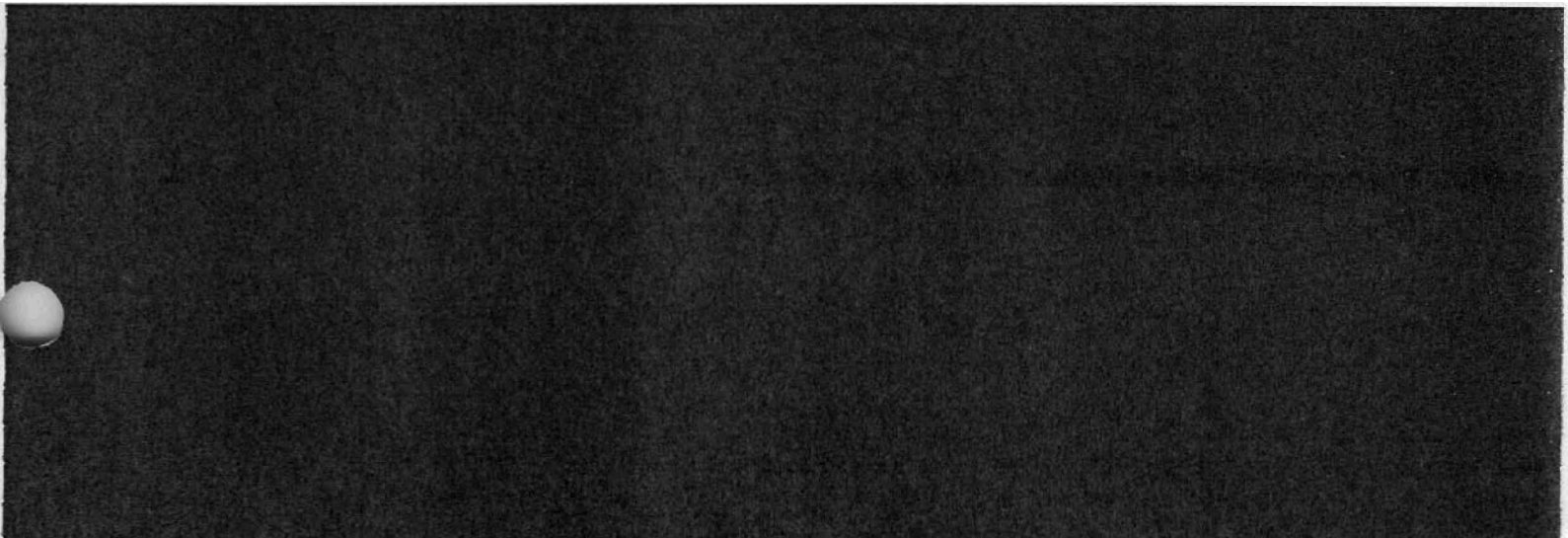
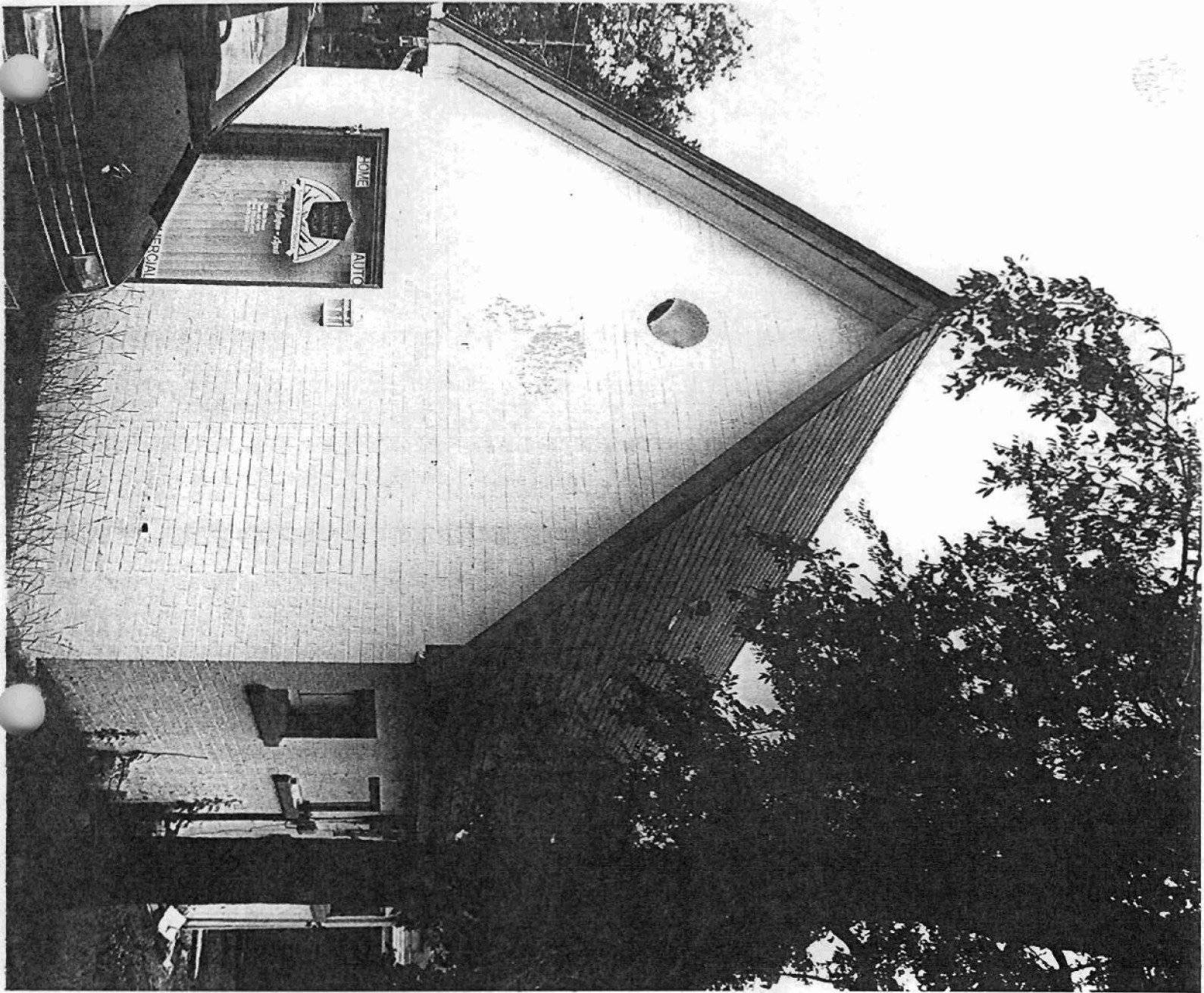
The Arkansas Oil Company was one of numerous oil companies interlocked through ownership that marketed under the Cities Service sign. Cities Service rose to prominence because they emphasized gasoline marketing. In the 1920s the various Cities Service companies advertised in mass-circulation magazines such as the Saturday Evening Post and in over 142 newspapers in 113 cities across 20 states. In 1965 the various Cities Service companies combined and marketed under the name "Citgo".

At the station commonly referred to as the Cities Service Station, the Arkansas Oil Company marketed their gas at the small English Revival building from 1938 until 1969. Although the Arkansas Oil Company owned the Cities Service Station, throughout the years various people managed the station. Louis Granderson managed the service station at the time it was sold to the Arkansas Oil Company in 1969. The Elrod Company in turn sold the building to Rufus Buie, the present-day owner, during the 1970s. Throughout the years the building has been used for a variety of purposes; however, currently it is being used for storage space.

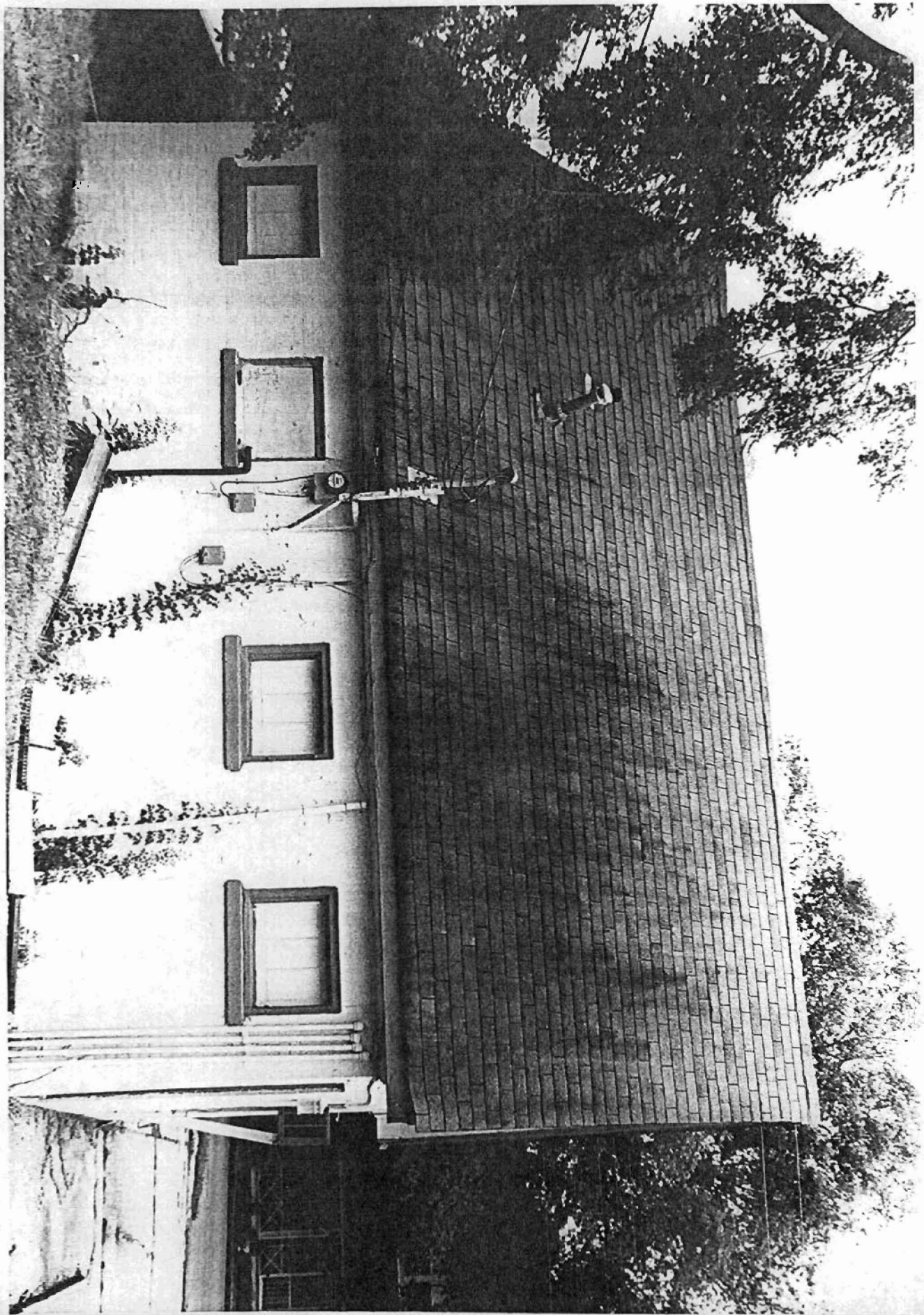
### Significance

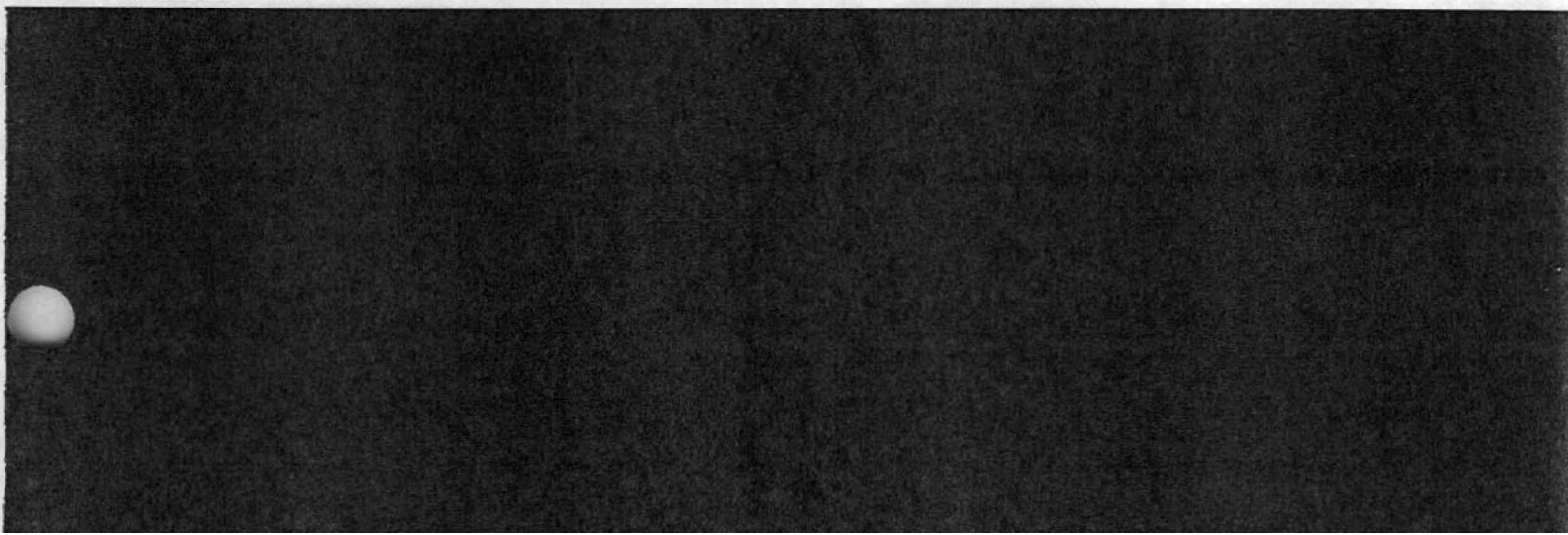
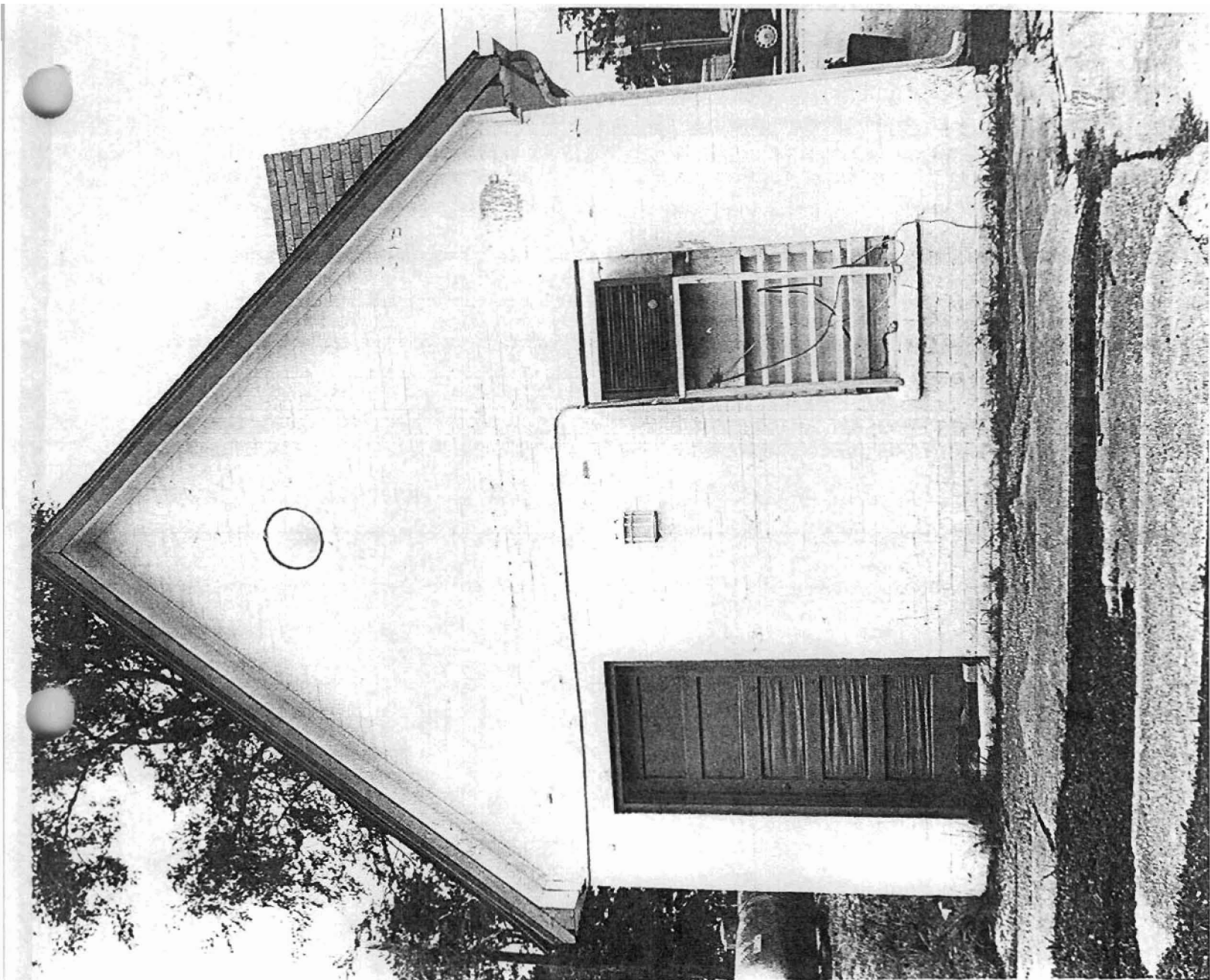
The Rison Cities Service Station is the only English Revival service station in Rison, Arkansas. Its architecture reflects the ideals of the 1920s and 1930s, an era when filling stations were designed to harmonize with neighborhoods. The Rison Cities Service Station is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion C** for its English Revival style and under **Criterion A** for its association with the development of highway travel in Arkansas, which is documented extensively in the multiple property listing. The service 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."





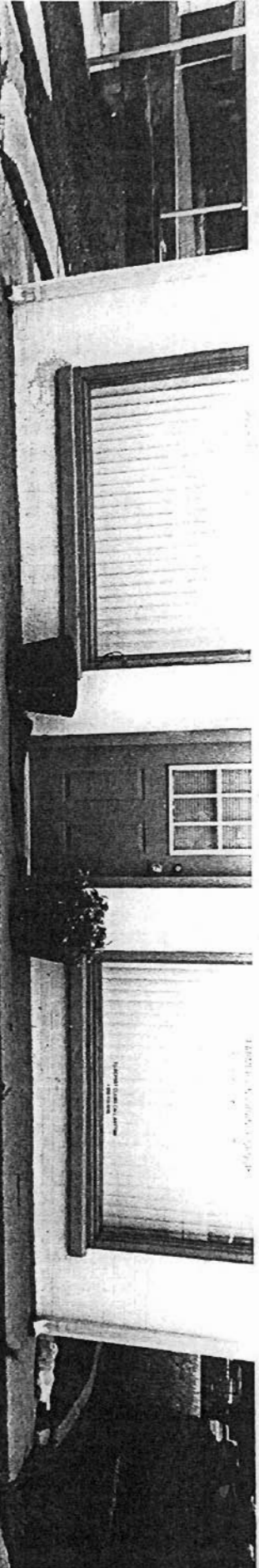


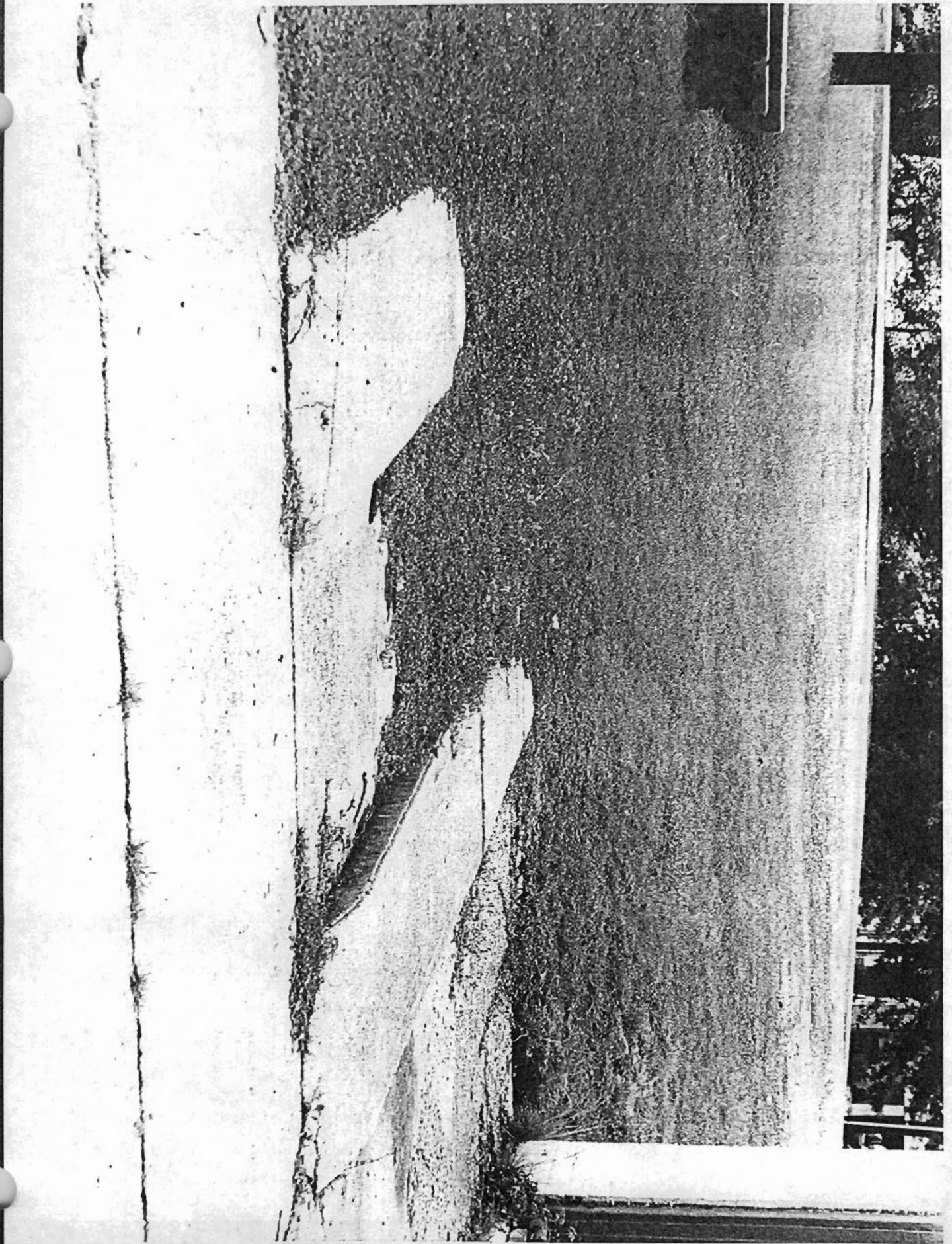






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1c







RISON, CLEVELAND CO., AR

UTM: 15 574853 375760

