

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 Samuel P. Taylor Service Station

Other names/site number Audio Visual Communication

## 2. Location

Street & number 1123 W. 3<sup>RD</sup> St.

not for publication

City or town Little Rock

vicinity

State Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72201

## 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  
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/28/00  
Date

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

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

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

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)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art-Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

Walls BRICK

Roof ASPHALT

Other

Narrative Description

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

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1938-1950

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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

John Saunders

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.)

Dixon, Richard. To Zac Cothren. 11 July 2000 Letter in possession of Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Horton, Ken. Interview by Zac Cothren. 5 July 2000.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre.**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>565580</u>	<u>3845080</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

West 50' of Lots 1&amp;2 Block 293, Original City of Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes all property historically associated with the Samuel P. Taylor Service Station.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>Zac Cothren</u>				
organization	<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	date	<u>8/18/00</u>		
street & number	<u>1500 Tower Bldg. 323 Center Street</u>	telephone	<u>(501) 324-9789</u>		
city or town	<u>Little Rock</u>	State	<u>AR</u>	zip code	<u>72201</u>

**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	<u>Ken Horton</u>				
street & number	<u>1123 W. Third St.</u>	telephone	<u>(501)372-3948</u>		
city or town	<u>Little Rock</u>	State	<u>AR</u>	zip code	<u>72201</u>

**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.

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

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### Description

Located on the corner of West Third and Cross Street in Little Rock, the Samuel P. Taylor Service Station is being nominated under **Criterion C** with **local significance** for its distinctive Art Deco characteristics. Built in 1938, the brick building with its black structural tiles and its decorative zig zag detailing is an excellent example of an Art Deco commercial building.

### Elaboration

The Samuel P. Taylor Service Station, located at 1123 West Third Street in downtown Little Rock, is an excellent example of Art Deco architecture. The building is constructed of brick with black structural glass tile used as a decorative boarder at the base of the storefront; that in conjunction with the zig zag pattern at the top of the building gives the building a very distinct Art Deco feeling. The building sits atop a continuous concrete foundation and is topped by a flat roof with a small parapet.

### West/Front

The building fronts west facing Cross Street. The façade is composed of two bays. The primary bay faces Cross Street and contains the principle storefront. The main entryway is beveled in the northwest corner of the building facing the street corner. The entryway is the most highly ornamented section of the building with glass structure tile from foundation up to the zig zag pattern that boards the rooftop. The doorway is flanked on each side by seven vertical glass blocks and is topped by a metal, Art Deco door hood. Located directly above the hood is a three panel by eight panel section of glass blocks. The main feature of the entryway is a florescent clock that is original to the building and is still operational. To the south of the door is a single pane picture window covered by a non-historic cloth awning.

Three garage work stations originally were located on the south end of the building. The original garage doors were removed on two of the workstations in 1989. The opening to the first space is now filled with a single pane glass door flanked on each side by non-historic two over one windows and also covered by an awning. The center workstation is infilled with six stationary windows. The final workstation still features its original wooden garage door, but has been capped with an awning. Today there is a neon sign above each of the three former workstations that read "Audio", "Visual", and "Communications" the current name of the building. Historically the neon signs had read "oil", "truck", and "brake". The left and right hand work areas have lights that still hang over the entryways. Bay two faces West Third Street and is the location of the third workstation mentioned in the above paragraph. The side of the bay faces west toward Cross Street, and is fenestrated by a panel of glass blocks that is twelve blocks tall by fifteen blocks wide.

### **South/Side**

The buildings southern elevation is devoid of any ornamentation. There are no black glass structural tiles or glass block. The only decorative detailing is the transition is made from the lighter colored brick to a more common red brick. It is also fenestrated with two sixteen pane windows.

### **East/Rear**

The east elevation displays brick on the southernmost end of the building and white brick comprises the remainder of the building. The area with red brick has two sixteen pane windows. In the northern end of the eastern side the Art Deco influence returns with two glass block panels. Both panels are four panes tall and three panes wide.

### **North/Side**

The north elevation mimics the Art Deco detailing located on the façade as the ziz zag detailing accents the top of the building. There are also two parallel stripes made of glass structural tile that extend across the building above the wood door and picture window that fenestrate the north elevation.

According to Mr. Horton, some damage due to neglect occurred while in use by the Safeway Company. Mr. Horton made repairs to the building, which included the roof being resealed and repairs to the interior of the building due to water damage from the leaky roof. He also removed an original garage door and replaced it with picture windows and a glass door for his business. He also said that some of the glass structural tiles had been damaged when the building was recently hit by a car, but he is going to repair the damage with material consistent with that on the building.

### **Integrity**

Even though alterations have occurred to the building it still maintains integrity. The wooden doors have been replaced on two of the work areas and awnings have been added, but the original black structural tile and original fluorescent clock still remain. Also the zig zag pattern that borders the roof line and the original glass block panels emphasize the building's integrity and significance as an Art Deco commercial building.

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

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### SUMMARY

Constructed in 1938, the Smuel P. Taylor Service Station is being nominated for its **local significance** under **Criterion C** because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of Art Deco architecture. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** as a contributing resource to the historic context "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910-1965."

### ELABORATION

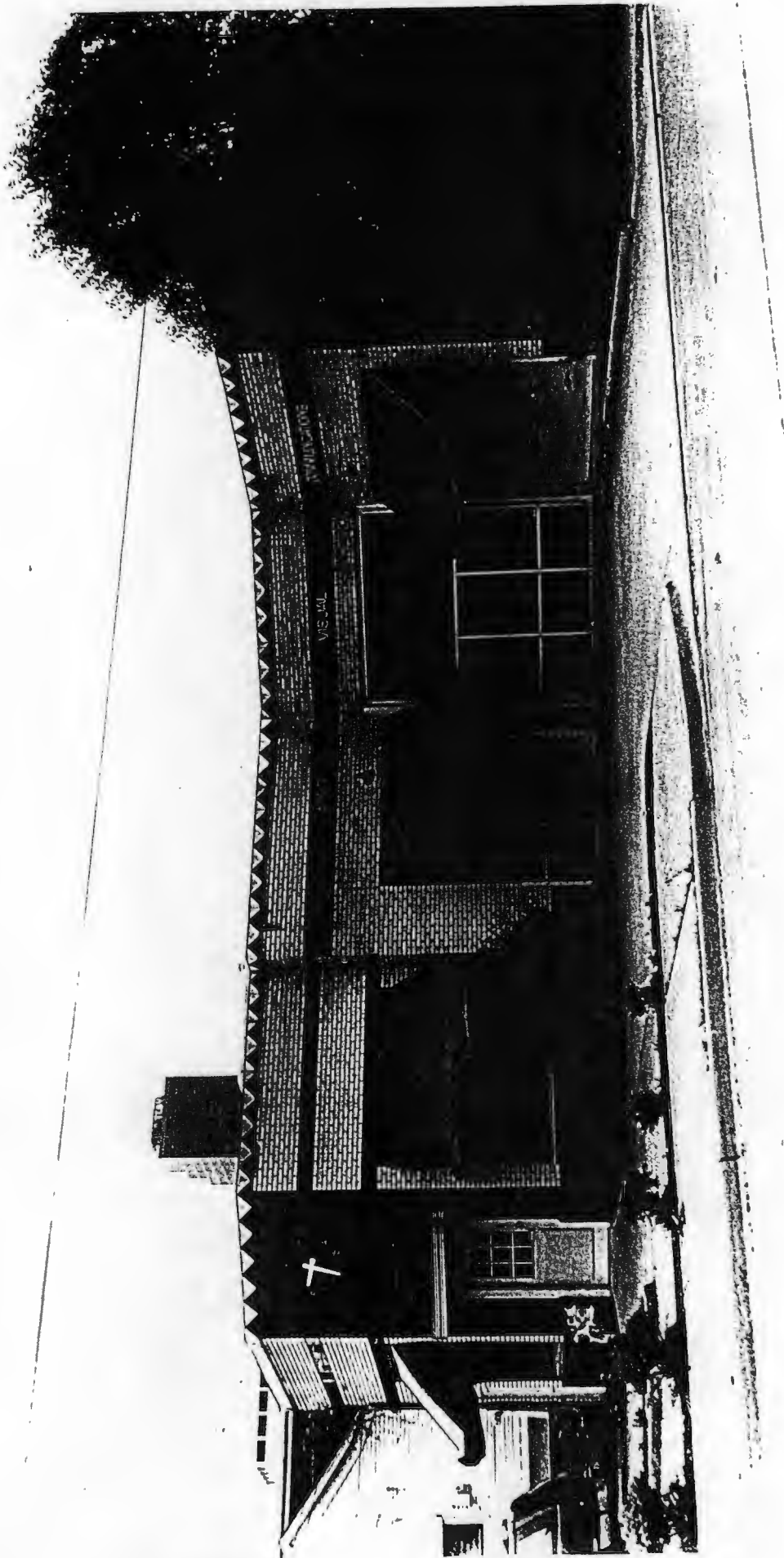
The Samuel P. Taylor Service Station is located at the corner of Cross Street and West Third Street in downtown Little Rock. The building was constructed in 1938 on a lot previously owned by the Cross Street Christian Church. The church built a basement in 1935 and had planned to construct a church on the site, however money could not be raised and the church disbanded circa 1937. A man known as Mr. Saunders was hired to build a service station on the site. In 1938 the Samuel P. Taylor Service Station opened its doors to motorists.

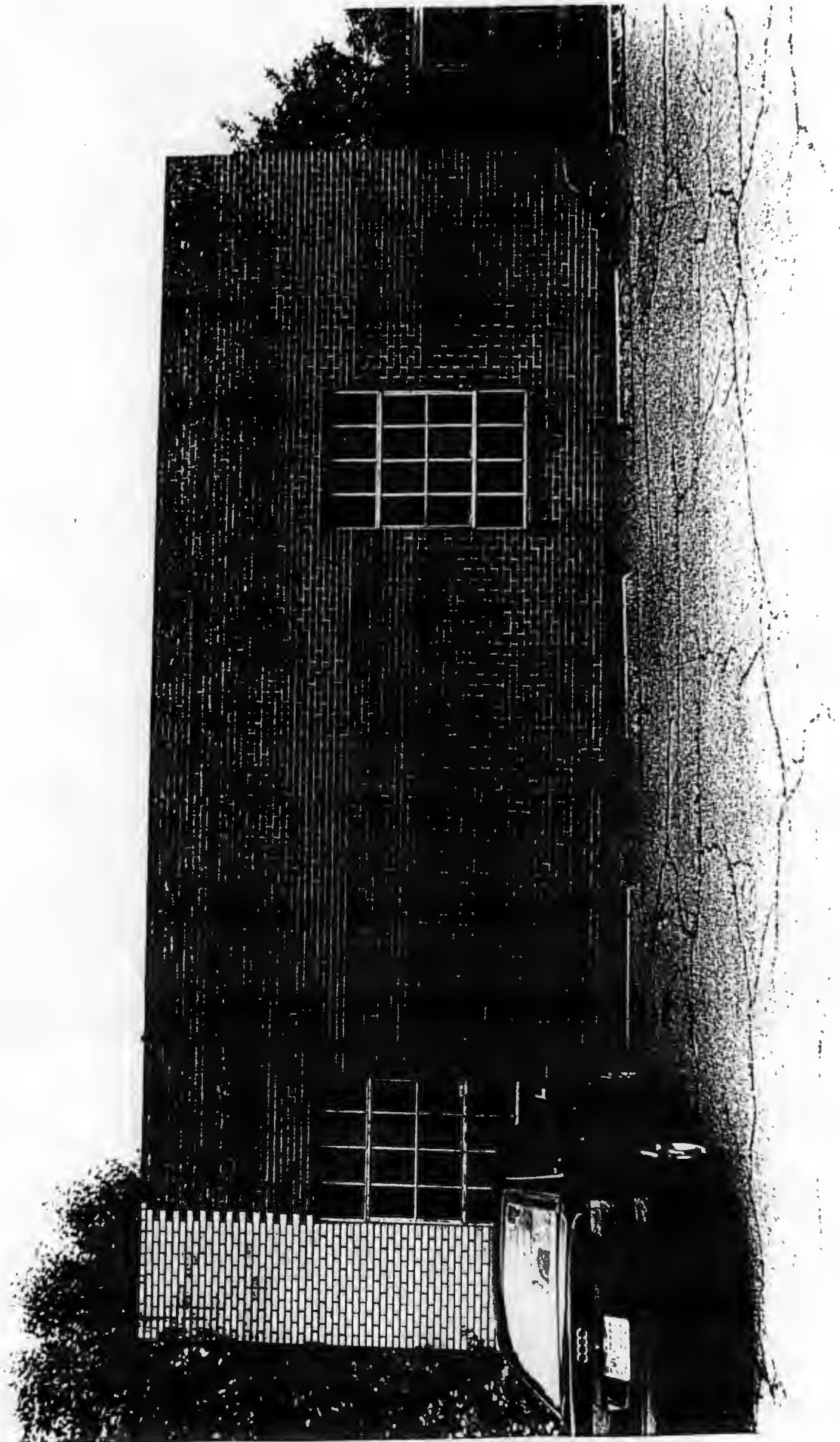
The Samuel P. Taylor Service Station served motorists as a garage and gas station from its opening in 1938 until 1947. In 1947 the building was purchased by Paul Williamson and the name of the business was changed to Cross Town Gulf Service Station. Mr. Williamson served as the owner and operator of the Gulf Oil Company franchise until the business went out of operation in 1972. The building was purchased by the Safeway Corporation in 1973 and was used as storage by the Safeway Bakery Division located at 1111 West Third Street in Little Rock. It remained in the hands of the company until it was purchased by current owner Ken Horton in 1989. During the summer of 1989 he opened the building for business under the name Audio-Visual Communications. Although the building no longer serves as a service station it still greatly resembles its historic appearance and reminds those passing by of its original use.

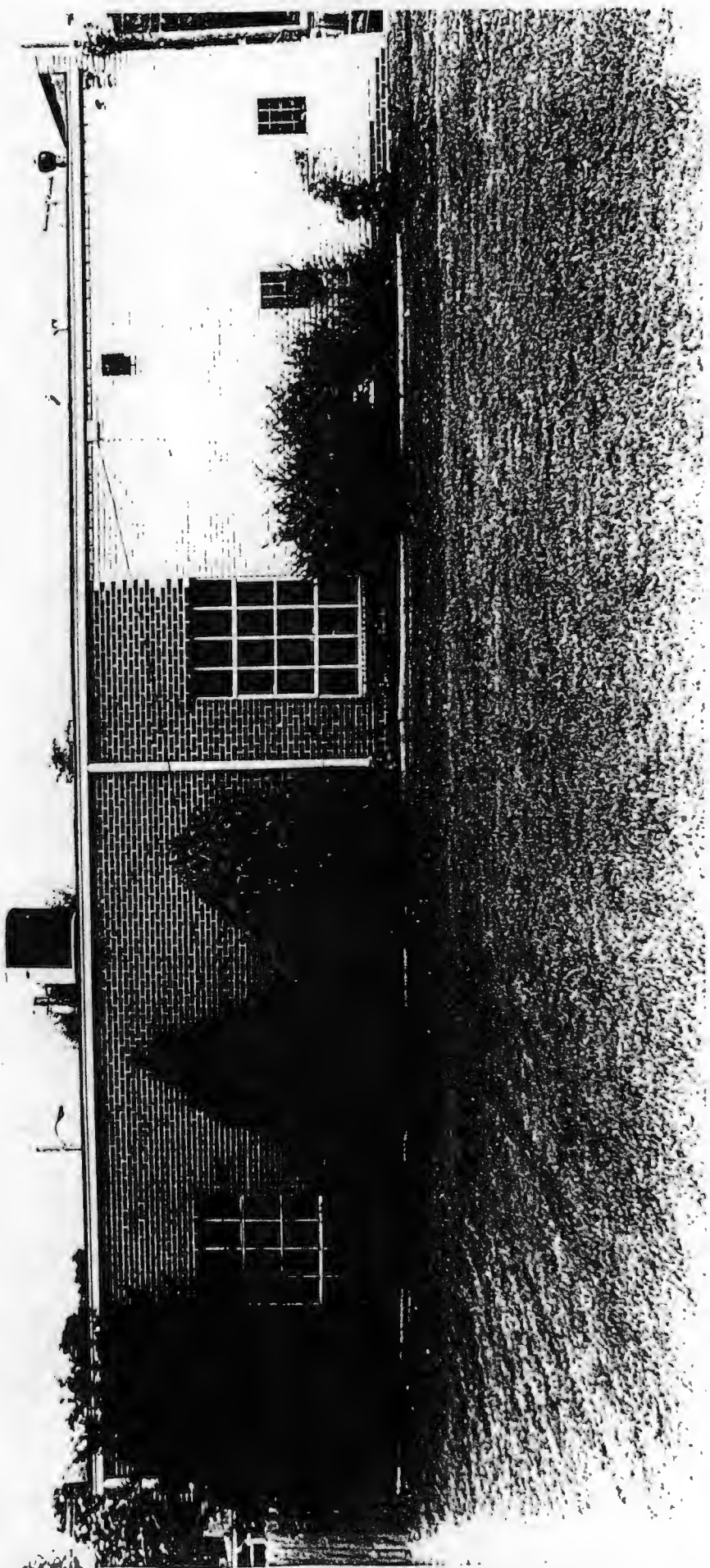
### SIGNIFICANCE

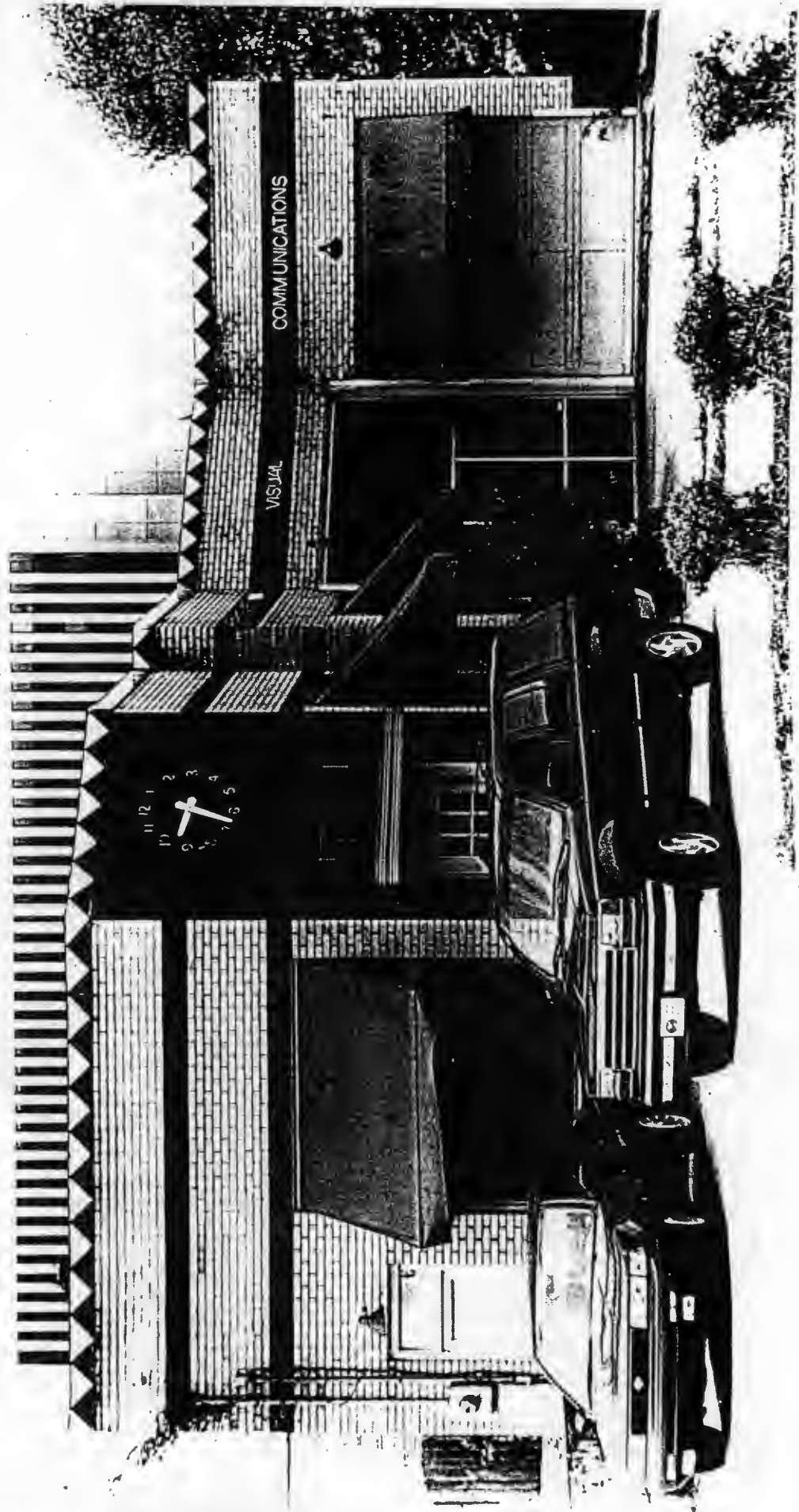
The Samuel P. Taylor Service Station is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as the best extant Art Deco design service station in downtown Little Rock. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with the development of Arkansas highway culture, which is documented extensively in the multiple property listing. The Samuel P. Taylor Service Station is being submitted under the multiple property nomination "Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965" in conjunction with the historic context "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture 1910-1965."

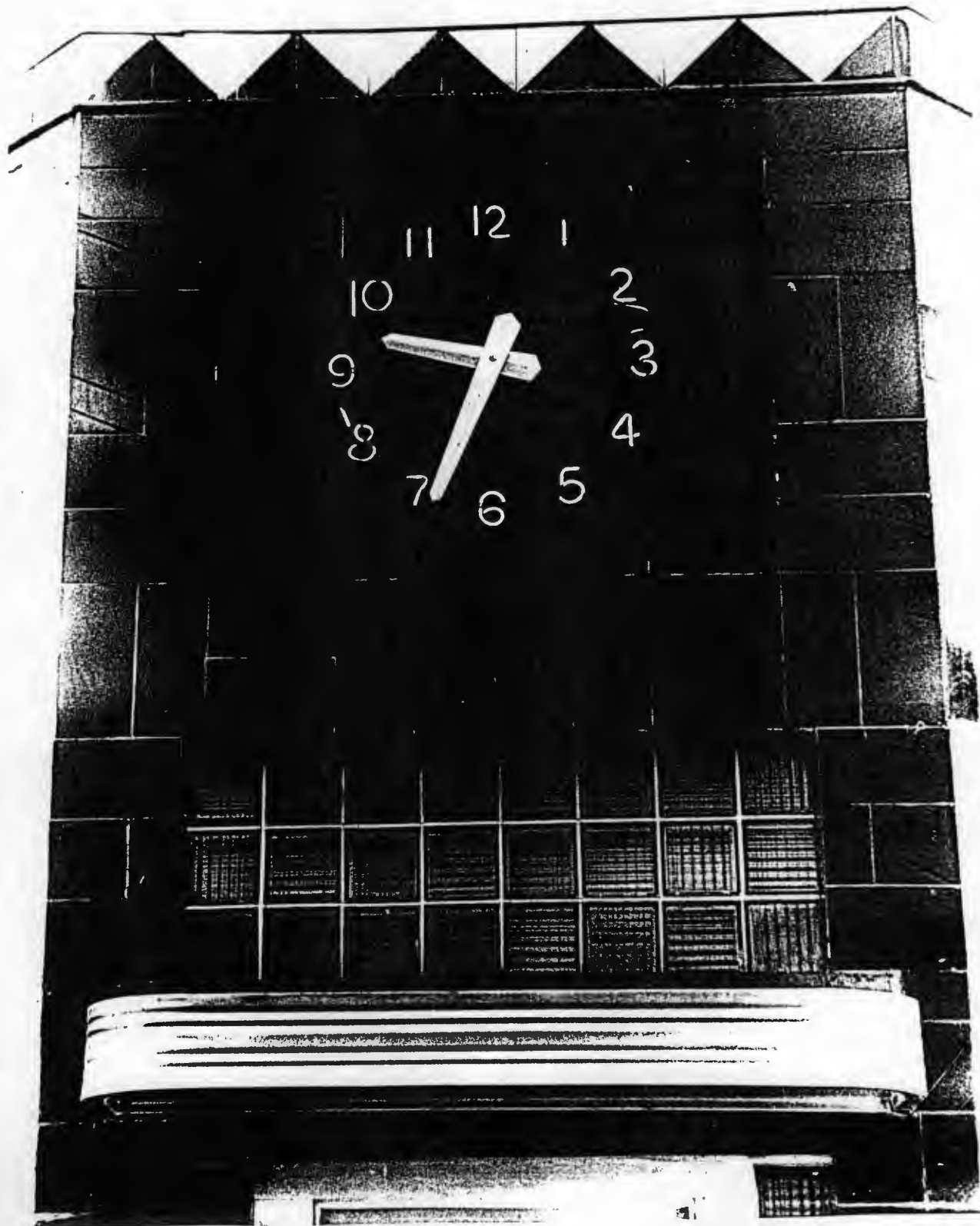












Samuel P. Taylor Service Station  
Pulaski Co., AR

UTM 15/56580/3845080

LITTLE ROCK (C)  
ARKA  
7.5-MINUTE SERIE

