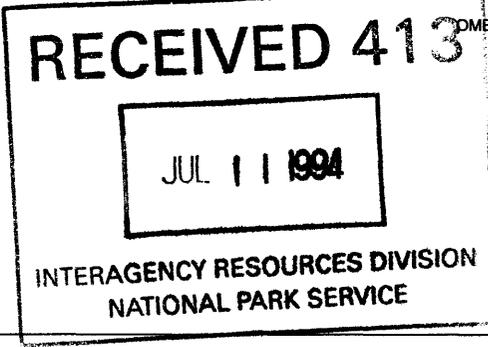


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Hale's Filling Station and Grocery

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Lanark Townsite

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: X

city/town: Bainville

state: Montana code: MT county: Roosevelt code: 085 zip code: 59212

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maule Shuff MT SHPO 6-24-94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register see continuation sheet
- other (explain): _____

for
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper
Entered in the Date of Action
National Register 8-16-94

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

Category of Property: Building(s)

2 building(s)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

sites

structures

objects

Name of related multiple property listing: Roadside Architecture Along US 2 in Montana

2 TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Commerce/Trade: specialty store

Current Functions:

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: Domestic style gas station

Materials:

foundation: concrete

walls: brick

roof: metal

other: n/a

Narrative Description

The former Hale's Filling Station and Grocery is located in what was once the small Montana farming community of Lanark. The townsite is located on an abandoned segment of old US 2, between Bainville and Culbertson in the extreme northeastern corner of the state. The former station faces north, on the southeast corner of the intersection of the old highway and a north-south county road designated B602. The town itself all but vanished before the Second World War. The post office was closed in the early 1930s, and within a few years Lanark was removed from state highway maps. Hale's Station is the only remaining original building at the townsite today.

The building was most likely constructed during the late 1920s although county records do not list a specific date. The old station is a classic example of the domestic house with canopy design common during the pre-Depression era. The brick building has a perpendicular gable roof that extends over the small pump island. The canopy is supported by two brick box columns. A return eave extends across the front gabled end of the building. Both front and rear eaves are made of wood with the front covered in asphalt shingles. The main roof is sheathed in metal over wood planking, obviously a later modification. The station office is entered via a center wooden door with a fixed three-pane vertical window. An identical door permits egress from the rear of the small, 12' by 16' enclosure. A rickety screen door remains attached to the front entryway. Originally the main access was flanked by 3' by 3' fixed wood-frame windows with brick sills. Only one remains today, the other having been boarded over many years ago. Smaller side windows, most likely of similar design, also have been covered to protect the interior from the elements.

At the rear of the building a brick chimney extends from about four feet off the ground up through the roof to vent a wood stove that originally heated the store in winter. The upper portion of the chimney is in very poor condition.

A small, wood frame, single compartment privy is located adjacent to the southeast corner of the building. It is a clapboard sided, square building without a foundation. The rear-sloping flat roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The privy dates to the early operation of Hale's Filling Station and Grocery and is a contributing component of the property.

¹The present alignment of the highway (US 2) passes about one-quarter mile south of the townsite. The road was re-routed in 1961.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C	Areas of Significance: Architecture Commerce
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a	Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1928-ca. 1939
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: ca. 1928
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder: Lloyd Hale

Narrative Statement of Significance

The former Hale's Filling Station and Grocery is the only example of a 1920s era gas station on an abandoned rural segment of US 2 in Montana. Even more significant is that this building is the only remaining historic building in the once thriving town of Lanark. With its corner location on the old highway, the station was one of the community's most prominent commercial enterprises. As was the case with many homestead era towns, Lanark succumbed in the 1930s to the combined impacts of the economic depression and a succession of abnormally dry years. America's increasing mobility, brought about by the widespread adoption of the automobile, also served to undermine the commercial viability of small town businesses. The station remains, however, a symbol of a vanishing way of life in the rural Great Plains.

Architecturally, the station is an excellent example of an early domestic style station with canopy design. Such buildings were inexpensive to build, easy to maintain, and blended well with residential surroundings. The integrity is excellent -- with the exception of new roofing, this station is amazingly authentic and generally well preserved. It stands isolated today on a weed-infested remnant of the old highway, a prosaic statement of its role in early 20th century automotive travel.

The station was built in the late 1920s by Audrey and Lloyd Hale. Together with Lloyd's father Jess, the Hale family operated the combined filling station and grocery for about ten years, providing fuel and oil, a basic assortment of groceries, and cold refreshments for weary motorists on warm summer days. The store closed about 1939 or 1940. By this time the town had declined to a point where only a few families still lived in the community. The post office and school had closed and there was not enough highway traffic alone to support the business.

Hale's Filling Station sold Texaco products for most of its commercial life although there is some evidence that in the late 1930s the business may have switched to Laurel Leaf petroleum products from the Farmer's Union refinery in Laurel, MT. Unfortunately, company archives do not include records of the retail distribution network during this period to substantiate this association.

9. Major Bibliographic References

- Alexander, William. Former resident of Lanark, personal communication (Bainville, MT), August 1993.
Anklam, Newt. Former resident of Lanark, personal communication (Culbertson, MT), August 1993.
Bayer, Linda. "Roadside Architecture," Historic Huntsville Quarterly 9:1,2 (1983).
Bjorge, Robert. Former resident of Lanark, personal communication (Bainville, MT) August 1993.
Engelke, Keenan. Owner of property in Lanark, personal communication (Culbertson, MT) July 1993.
Henderson, Wayne. Guide to Gasoline Logos. Self-published, Marshall, NC (1993).
Kral, Roberta. Former resident of Lanark, personal communication (Culbertson, MT) August 1993.
Liebs, Chester. Main Street to Miracle Mile. Little, Brown and Company, Boston (1985).
Lyngard, Dorothy. Former resident of Lanark and daughter of station owners, personal communication (Big Fork, MT) September 1993.
Vieyra, Daniel. Fill'er Up. Collier Books, New York (1978).
Young, Vernon. Former resident of Lanark, personal communication (Culbertson, MT), September 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 -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: **Zone** **Easting** **Northing**
 A 13 547815 5332160

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): NW ¼, NE ¼, NE ¼ of Section 33, T28N, R57E

Verbal Boundary Description

Lanark Townsite, Block 1, Lot 1.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the lot upon which the nominated building is located.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Joseph M. Ashley, Associate Professor of Geography
organization: Montana State University date: October 1993
street & number: Dept of Earth Sciences telephone: 406/994-6904
city or town: Bozeman state: MT zip code: 59717

Property Owner

name/title: Keenan Engelke
street & number: Box 656
city or town: Culbertson state: MT zip code: 59218