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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: Dave's Texaco

other name/site number: Dave's Exxon

2. Location

street & number: 237 Pennsylvania Street

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Chinook

state: Montana code: MT county: Blaine code: 005 zip code: 59523

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.)

Maurel Shep MTS HPO 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): _____

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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	Number of Resources within Property	
Category of Property: Building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	<u>1</u>	_____ building(s)
Name of related multiple property listing: Roadside Architecture Along US 2 in Montana	_____	_____ sites
	_____	_____ structures
	_____	_____ objects
	<u>1</u>	_____ TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:	Current Functions:
Commerce/Trade: specialty store	Commerce/Trade: specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
Other: domestic style gas station	foundation: concrete
	walls: stucco
	roof: asphalt
	other: n/a

Narrative Description

Dave's Texaco, currently Dave's Exxon, is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Pennsylvania Street and 3rd Street in Chinook, Montana. The station is positioned diagonally so that it fronts on both streets. In 1927 when the building was constructed, US 2 followed 3rd Street but today the main highway lies two blocks to the north. Chinook's major commercial thoroughfare, Indiana Street, is one block east. The station has provided continuous service to the motorist for over sixty-five years, the last fifty-five years under the ownership of David Sprinkle.

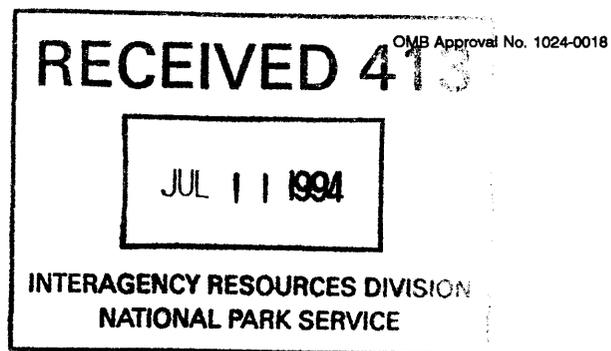
The original building is a classic example of 1920s-early 1930s domestic filling station design. The rear portion of the structure consists of a small gable roof cottage, positioned diagonally to the corner. A long perpendicular gabled canopy covers the front office and extends over the driveway to the pump island where it is supported by two boxed piers. A return eave runs across the gabled end, facing the intersection. Two additional supports identical in design to the island piers, are located at the front corners of the office. A stylistic indulgence is achieved by the addition of flat-topped caps piercing the roof for each of the four piers. A central walk-in door with transom light above is flanked by two large plate-glass, wood-framed windows. An additional two-pane by four-pane window faces northeast. A small brick chimney rises above the rear portion of the structure. The exterior is stucco, painted white with dark green trim. T-lock asphalt roofing has been installed over the original wooden shingles.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Dave's Texaco



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As was typical of many early gas stations, interior space is quite restricted. The ladies room is reached from the northeast side of the building while the men's room is to the rear of the office. Every available nook is used to display products and accessories. An early 1940s Coke machine is crowded along the northeast wall along with assorted storage cabinets. The lath and plaster ceiling is another indication that the interior of the station remains much as it was before the Second World War.

In the early days an outside grease rack was located next to the office. Given Chinook's severe winter weather, this arrangement did not work well once service work became a substantial part of the business. In the late 1940s, a flat roof 20' x 27' service bay was attached to the southwest side of the station. A large wood-panel overhead door provides access while a walk-through door links the shop with the office. Two large windows along the southwest side of the service area have been boarded over to reduce heat loss in winter.

The design of the service bay, dating to the end of the period of historic significance, is most compatible to the original building. Unified by the stuccoed exterior and proportions of the primary facades, it addressed functional needs of operation while allowing the original elements of the station's design to dominate and reflect accurately their historic appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C	Areas of Significance: Architecture Commerce
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a	Period(s) of Significance: 1927-1944
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: 1927
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

Dave's Texaco is one of only a few 1920s era service stations still in business today. Even more significant is the fact that the present owner, David Sprinkle, has operated the business since 1938, making him one of the State's most senior gasoline retailers. Dave's Texaco, as it was known for over forty years, has provided several generations of US 2 travellers and north-central Montanans with courteous, dependable service. Few businesses along the Montana Hi-Line can boast of a similar record.

Architecturally, the building is one of the finest examples of the domestic or cottage style design in the northwestern United States. When viewed from the exterior or interior, the architectural integrity of the building is amazing. With the exception of signage and computer pumps, alterations have been kept to a minimum. Mr. Sprinkle has even saved one of the station's original visible gasoline pumps along with the appropriate Texaco globe. The interior walls of the station are lined with fan belts, hoses, and other service items that might fit virtually any model automobile or truck produced over the last forty years.

According to Blaine County records, the station was built in 1927 along the old Theodore Roosevelt International Highway, designated US 2 just one year before construction of the station began. Al Rassmussen was the first proprietor. He operated the business until 1935 when he sold out to Curly Graham. Three years later a young service station attendant from Havre by the name of David Sprinkle became the station's third and final owner.

From 1927 until August 1978, when the company ceased retail operations in Montana, the station sold exclusively Texaco products. Mr. Sprinkle then affiliated with the Exxon Corporation and has sold Standard Oil of New Jersey products ever since. The building, however, continues to display the traditional red, green, and white colors of the Texas Oil Company.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bayer, Linda. "Roadside Architecture," Historic Huntsville Quarterly 9:1.2 (1983).
Henderson, Wayne. Guide to Gasoline Logos. self-published, Marshall, NC (1993).
Jakle, John. "The American Gas Station, 1920-1970," Journal of American Culture Spring (1976).
Liebs, Chester. Main Street to Miracle Mile. Little, Brown & Company, Boston (1985).
Olson, Charles D. "Sign of the Star: Walter Dorwin Teague and the Texas Company," Society for Commercial Archeology News Journal 11:1 (1990).
Sprinkle, David. owner of Dave's Exxon, Personal communication (Chinook, MT), August 1993.
VanDeven, George. long time local resident, Personal communication (Chinook, MT), September 1993.
Vieyra, Daniel. Fill'er Up. Collier Books, New York (1978).

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 12	630400	5383525

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): NE ¼, SE ¼, SW ¼ of Section 27, T33N, R19E

Verbal Boundary Description

Chinook Townsite, Block 18, Lot 3.

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: David Sprinkle
street & number: Box 217
city or town: Chinook state: MT zip code: 59523