NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

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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 any 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 Pro	perty				
	Cave Creek Service				
other names/site					
2. Location					
street & number city or town: state: Arizona	: 6141 Cave Cree Cave Creek code: AZ	k Road county: Maricopa	code: 013	not for publication: _N/A_ vicinity: _N/A_	
3. State/Federa	I Agency Certificat	tion			
As the designate <u>X</u> nominatio properties in the 36 CFR Part 6	ed authority under t n request fo National Register o 0. In my opinion t this property be co	the National Historic Prese or determination of eligil of Historic Places and mee , the property <u>X</u> mee	ervation Act of 1 bility meets the ets the procedura ets does r	986, as amended, I hereby certify documentation standards for re al and professional requirements se not meet the National Register C atewide X locally. (See cor	/ that this egistering et forth in Criteria. I

ture of certifying of

ÓNA

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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form Cave Creek Service Station Maricopa County, Arizona

4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.	Beal 9-22.00
See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain):	
lar	
Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)X_ private public-local public-State public-Federal Category of Property (Check only one box)X_ building district	
district site structure object	
Number of Resources within Property	
Contributing Noncontributing 1	

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: __N/A__

Name of related multiple property listing: __N/A__

6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Category: TRANSPORTATION Subcategory: Road-related (vehicular/service station)					
	nter categories from instructions) DUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACT	ON Subcategory: Industrial storage (warehouse)			
7. Description					
Architectural Classification Category: MODERN MOVEMENT Subcategories: Streamline Moderne/International					
Materials Foundation: Walls: Roof: Other:	CONCRETE METAL/Steel METAL/Steel N/A				
Narrative Description	(SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS 6	- 8)			

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.

- _X__ 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.)

- _____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- _X__ B removed from its original location
- ____ C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

circa 1936-1953

Significant Dates

1936 (patent date) c1936 (construction in Phoenix) 1952 (relocation to Cave Creek)

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Aldrich, Ralph N. (industrial designer); Permutt, Gerry (moved station in 1952)

Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS 9-11)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 12)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- _X_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested (Tax Act Certification Part One)
- 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

X Other

Name of repository: Cave Creek Museum, 16140 Skyline Drive, Cave Creek, AZ 85331

10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Propertyless than 1
UTM References (See accompanying USGS map, Figure 1, for point reference) Zone 12 412325E 3743740N
Verbal Boundary Description The property is a rectangular parcel measuring 50 x 87 ft. The north boundary lies 5 ft north of the north end of the station's canopy, at the edge of Cave Creek Road. The east boundary lies 15 ft east of the east end of the building's foundation. The south boundary lies 15 ft south of the south end of the foundation. The west boundary lies 15 ft west of the west end of the foundation.
Boundary Justification The boundary includes the service station and the pavement immediately surrounding it.
11. Form Prepared By
name/title:Pat Haigh Steinorganization:Arizona Preservation Consultantsdate: January 2000street/number:6786 Mariah Drivetelephone: (520) 714-0585city or town:Flagstaffstate: AZzip code: 86004
Additional Documentation
Continuation Sheets (pages 6-13) Maps A USGS map (Cave Creek, Ariz., 7.5 minute quadrangle) indicating the property's location (Figure 1) Description and drawings of 1935-1936 patent design 98470 (Figures 2a and 2b) Elevations and floor plan of Cave Creek Service Station as found in 1999 (Figure 3) Photographs Representative black and white current photographs of the property (Photos 1-2) 1958 black and white photograph (Photo 3) Additional items None
Property Owner Information
name:Bruce St. Germaine, Black Mountain Commercial Centerstreet & number:P.O. Box 82city or town:Cave Creekstate:AZzip code:85237

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DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The property is a good example of a style of automobile service station designed in 1935 and patented in 1936 by Ralph N. Aldrich for Standard Stations, Inc., a division of Standard Oil of California. The station is a prefabricated building consisting of galvanized steel panels on a frame of steel girders. The design reflects the Modern Movement, showing elements of the Streamline Moderne and International styles. Character-defining elements include the building's strong horizontal emphasis, smooth wall surface, flat roof with beveled coping at the roofline, extensive glazing, elongated canopy, minimal decoration, and streamlines on the canopy columns and entry surround. The station was originally erected in Phoenix circa 1936. In 1952 it was moved to Cave Creek, where it functioned as a service station until the late 1980s. The move did not adversely affect the architectural qualities that make the property significant.

Appearance

The service station lies in Cave Creek about 30 miles north of the state capital and county seat of Phoenix. The station faces north onto Cave Creek Road, the main street that historically connected the desert foothills community with the metropolitan area. When the station was erected on this site in 1952, Cave Creek Road had two lanes. It now has four lanes and a median, but still accommodates only low-speed traffic. The property is adjoined on the south by a trailer park, on the west by an office building, on the north by the road, and on the east by retail shops. This unpretentious cluster of buildings, dating variously from the 1930s to the 1970s, comprises Cave Creek's center and downtown.

The station has a prefabricated structural system consisting of galvanized steel panels on steel girders. It rests on a concrete pad that extends several feet beyond the walls, forming pavement around the building. Other construction materials include: wood, used for doors and cabinets; plate glass, used for windows of the office, garage doors, and restrooms; and fluorescent tube lighting, attached under the canopy and inside the building. All of these materials appear to be original.

Many prefabricated service stations of the 1930s, 1940s, and early 1950s had porcelain enamel surfaces. The material was made from a soft sheet of steel, called "enameling stock," covered with a layer of "frit," minute particles of shattered glass resulting from the contact of molten glass with cold water. Frit-covered steel was placed in fusing ovens at high temperatures to create a hard-surfaced material (Jakle and Sculle 1994:241). The advantage of enameled stations was that they presented gleaming, sanitary surfaces to motorists but took only minutes to clean. However, there is no evidence that the Cave Creek station ever had such cladding. On the contrary, its galvanized steel panels appears to have been factory-painted with oil-based pigment (white with red trim) that has oxidized to a fine chalk through time.

The building consists of two zones: the building proper, containing an office, service bay, storage room, and two restrooms; and a canopy, which was designed to shelter attendants as they pumped gas. Scholars of service stations

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(including Liebs 1985; Witzel 1992; and Jakle and Sculle 1994) would classify the Cave Creek property as "an oblong box," a form that became popular during the Great Depression. Section 8 of this nomination provides an architectural history of this station type.

The building reflects a minimalist approach to architecture that is clearly within the Modern Movement. Borrowing from the Streamline Moderne and International styles, the design was meant to convey an appearance of speed, efficiency, and progress. The design was also intended to enhance product recognition. The station was designed to be a "Standard Station" associated with Standard Oil of California. The industrial designer therefore included an element that became a Standard Station trademark: an elongated canopy (Jakle and Sculle 1994:147). The long canopy on the Cave Creek station today remains its most striking feature. Measuring 12' wide by 32' 5" long, the structure is only 2' shorter than the rest of the building to which it is attached. Two columns support the far end. Three-inch steel pipes form their structural core. Surrounding each pipe is a matrix of steel girders clad with galvanized steel panels to form 15" square columns. The columns are impressed with pinstripes (streamlines) for nearly their entire height. The same motif repeats around the building entry at the other end of the canopy.

The base of one of the canopy columns bears a porcelain enamel plaque reading "PATENT NO. DES. 98470." Its meaning was deciphered using the patent microform collection archived in the Noble Science Library at Arizona State University. The plaque indicates that patent #98470 was indeed a design for a service station. The industrial designer was Ralph N. Aldrich of San Francisco, assignor to Standard Stations, Inc., also of San Francisco. Aldrich applied for the patent on December 9, 1935, and received it on February 4, 1936. In the two-page patent document, Aldrich stated that he had invented a "new, original, and ornamental Design for a Service Station" (see Figure 2a) and provided plan and perspective drawings of it (see Figure 2b).

A comparison of patent drawings (Figure 2b) with current drawings and photographs (Figure 3; Photos 1 and 2) indicates that the Cave Creek building closely matches Aldrich's prototype. The design and plan are remarkably unaltered: the sleek canopy is attached to a glass-walled office leading to a service bay followed at the rear with a storage room between restrooms. The Cave Creek station varies from the patent drawing in only one respect. To secure the service bay at night and enclose it in bad weather, a system of three horizontally sliding doors have been installed on the west elevation and a folding metal grille has been installed on the east elevation (see Figure 3). Close inspection of these features suggests that they were part of the original building as ordered from the prefabricator. Custom orders were not uncommon for Standard Stations erected in central Arizona in the 1930s. For example, Sanborn maps indicate that some Standard Stations (identified as such through business directories) bore not one but two canopies, with the second one attached to the office at a right angle. Double-canopied Standard Stations often occurred at busy intersections; an example once stood in Phoenix at 620 West Roosevelt, at the corner of Roosevelt and 7th Avenue.

Other features of the Cave Creek building merit note. Encircling the flat roof of the entire building is coping that bevels back at about a 20-degree angle. Above the office, the coping assumes parapet-like proportions, projecting a foot higher there than above the rest of the building. The double door to the office is notable for its curvilinear woodwork of Moderne inspiration. Inside the front office, to the right of the entry and below the front windows, are low, built-in wooden cabinets that double as seats and storage bins. A wall of windows separates the office from the service bay; a customer waiting in

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the office would have been afforded an unrestricted view of the "patient" undergoing surgery in the next room (the service bay). The two restrooms at the rear of the building each have frosted glass windows and door transoms; the "men's" room (on the west elevation) even contains some original fixtures such as a 1930s sink and "BORAX" hand-soap dispenser. Sandwiched between the restrooms and accessible only by a sturdy door from the service bay is the storage room, a windowless, vault-like chamber.

Prefabricated stations such as this one were designed to be not only erected quickly but also moved easily (Jakle and Sculle 1994:150). After standing on 19th Avenue in Phoenix for more than a decade, this station was moved in 1952 to Cave Creek, where it continued to be a Standard Station. Under Gerry Permutt and subsequent owners, the station sold Standard Oil of California (Chevron) products (Photo 3) before closing in the late 1980s. The Town of Cave Creek currently leases the building for storage space. The present owner plans to rehabilitate the building and return it to commercial use.

Integrity

The Cave Creek property is a good example of a mid 1930s Standard Station. Its appearance today closely matches the original design of that station type as patented by Aldrich in 1936. All of the character-defining attributes are present. It is missing only the gasoline pumps and service bay automobile lift. Its relocation in 1952 did not adversely affect the architectural qualities that make the building important. Moreover, the building is a rare surviving example of a once common type. Business directories indicate that Phoenix circa 1936 had 127 service stations, 14 of which were Standard Stations. By 1951 only five of the 14 still stood. Between 1951 and 1953, four of those five disappeared; presumably, they were demolished or moved. Today the Cave Creek station is the only known surviving example of a 1930s Standard Station in the greater Phoenix area.

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SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Cave Creek Service Station is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration B. The property is a fine example of a 1930s gas station. Its design, which reflects the Streamline Moderne and International styles of the Modern Movement, developed during the Depression when oil companies sought bold new images to attract consumers and enhance product recognition. The station was moved from Phoenix to Cave Creek in 1952, but the move did not adversely affect its architectural character. It continues to convey corporate America's approach to industrial design and product packaging in the 1930s. The period of significance begins with its date of construction in Phoenix circa 1936 and ends in 1953 following its relocation to Cave Creek. The level of significance is local.

Significance under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration B

During the past three decades the American gas station has been the subject of much scholarly study. Historians and architectural historians (including Venturi, Brown, and Izenour 1972; Liebs 1985; Witzel 1992; and Jakle and Sculle 1994) have eloquently argued that stations are important features of the cultural landscape. The buildings represent a nation committed to mobility, both social and geographical. Their architecture expresses the dynamic relationship between technology, corporate America, and the consuming public. The following context places the Cave Creek property in historical-architectural perspective. The information is taken from Liebs (1985:94-115) unless otherwise cited.

When automobiles were first invented, gasoline was dispensed not by special stations but rather by general oil retailers who sold kerosene for illumination and lubricants for machinery. Motorists lugged the gas in metal can from bulk tank to car tank -- a laborious, impractical, and dangerous ritual. Fortunately the practice was short-lived. Around 1905 pumps began to appear that allowed gas to be transferred quickly and safely via rubber hose to the awaiting car. When car sales soared and the demand for gas skyrocketed, petroleum companies scoured the countryside for locations to sell oil and fuel to the growing ranks of motorists. The companies convinced thousands of merchants to add curbside pumps to their businesses.

Petroleum companies also began to experiment with new locations, giving rise to an embryonic form of the gas station. By 1905 the Automobile Gasoline Company established a chain of stations in St. Louis. Standard Oil opened its first station in Seattle in 1907; hundreds more soon followed. Most of the first stations were built and run directly by the oil companies. Others were owned and operated by investors who bought lots, erected structures, and negotiated contracts to sell gas. By World War I, "company" and "private" stations were mushrooming along roadside America at the rate of about 1,200 a year.

In contrast to curbside pumps, gas stations signaled a change in urban land use. Stations required enough space for motorists to pull completely off the street. In densely built-up areas, older buildings often had to be leveled to make room for the new drive-ins. Main Street sites that once held stores, apartments, or offices now sported a small shelter for an

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attendant or two, some gas pumps, and a sign mounted on a pole near the street. The remainder of the lot was given over to parking and driveways.

Most of the early gas stations were little more than tumble-down sheds or shacks. A few were large enough to house an office with desk, table, heating stove, and chairs. And they were everywhere: by the end of World War I, they were particularly ubiquitous in cities. Contributing to urban blight, the ramshackle stations became a target of concern to citizens, officials, and those who espoused the ideals of the City Beautiful movement.

Public pressure and a desire to present a better corporate image inspired oil companies in the 1920s to build more attractive stations. Often called "artistic stations," buildings of this genre gained widespread acceptance. Some approached the stature of civic monuments, with their Greek, Beaux Arts, or Neoclassical detailing. Most, however, were more modest affairs that closely resembled the tidy homes being built in the early twenties. The English Cottage, Tudor Revival, and Bungalow styles were particularly popular. "House stations" were calculated to trigger a feeling of neat, safe, comfortable domesticity in the minds of passing motorists. So successful was the concept that companies such as Pure Oil continued to use it until the early 1950s. Another innovation of the 1920s was prefabrication, allowing stations to be erected quickly and moved easily if a location proved unprofitable. Many house stations were, in fact, prefabricated buildings.

In the 1920s the oil companies worked to soften the intrusion of the gas station on the American landscape. In the 1930s they sought to maximize its visibility. The Depression brought about the change. Oil companies and their stations sought new ways to compete for vanishing dollars. They added new services (flat repair, lubrication, etc.), and products such as tires, batteries, and accessories (the trinity of products known in the trade as TBA) to generate greater income per station. They also sought an overall image make-over; "since all gasoline and oil basically looked the same, one way for oil company executives to make their liquid products appear modern was to give an exciting new look to the facilities that dispensed them" (Liebs 1985:104). Packaging assumed new importance, and there was no larger package with which to impress customers than the station itself.

By the mid-1930s the oil giants, assisted by architects and industrial designers, were developing a new range of station prototypes. The prototypes spawned a generation of stations designed to present a fresh and modern corporate image to the traveling public, to provide well-lit and clearly visible service bays, and to showcase TBA. By the end of the decade, white "oblong boxes" with large display windows, offices, service bays, storage rooms, and sanitary restrooms all under one roof were edging out the house stations of the twenties. English-cottage coziness gave way to hard-edged modernism; International and Streamline Moderne influences were particularly apparent in the new stations' designs. The oblong boxes contrasted -- even clashed -- with their surroundings, all the better to attract customers.

Many companies were quick to embrace the new look. For example, Texaco in 1934 hired industrial designer Walter Dorwin Teague to restyle their stations. The resulting prototype, a porcelain-enameled metal-clad white box with contrasting green streamlines, was hailed with excitement by the architectural world. Similarly, designers Norman Bel Geddes followed by Frederick G. Frost in 1934 developed sleek new prototypes for Socony Oil.

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The prototype for the Cave Creek Service Station developed in such times and circumstances. In the mid 1930s Standard Oil of California, whose territory included the Pacific Coast states as well as Arizona and New Mexico, hired industrial designer Ralph N. Aldrich to design a prototype for the company's "Standard Stations." From the patent number on the station's column, it is known that the design Aldrich submitted in 1935 and patented in 1936 (Patent #98470) provided the prototype for the Cave Creek station. It was a low, sleek design of International and Moderne inspiration. Its most striking feature, an elongated canopy, became a form of trademark for Standard Oil of California (Jakle and Sculle 1994:147). From Aldrich's design, stations were prefabricated of metal and shipped to locations in the five western states. The one that eventually became the Cave Creek station was shipped circa 1936 to Phoenix. At that time it was one of 14 Standard Stations in the city (Wilson and Troyer 1936).

The oblong box of the 1930s continued to be built into the early 1950s. In the mid 1950s companies including Standard Oil reworked their old designs. Motorists were traveling at faster speeds, and the oil giants sought architecture that would make a split-second impression. Taking their cue from independent station operators, the corporations resorted to the exaggeration of once purely functional features. Flat roofs gave way to rakishly tilted ones, and jutting, V-shaped canopies came to dominate station facades. The attention-drawing features of the new stations created a visual cacophony that was far from pleasing. By the early 1960s, gas stations were routinely receiving bad press, "joining junkyards and billboards as scapegoats in the public's growing outrage against the automobile's despoliation of the landscape" (Liebs 1985:111).

The Cave Creek Service Station represents what many "road scholars" consider to be the golden age of American gas stations. Its architecture successfully expresses the Modern Movement in a highly commercial context. Its style developed in response to the Great Depression when oil companies sought bold new images to attract consumers and enhance product recognition. Its prefabricated nature served its purpose well; the station was designed to be nearly as mobile as the public it served. When the station was moved from Phoenix to Cave Creek in 1952, it continued to retain its architectural character. It still conveys corporate America's approach to industrial design and product packaging in the 1930s.

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Interviews

Beverly Brooks, long-time Cave Creek resident, telephone communication, December 5, 1999, and January 14, 2000. Jeanine Thompson, daughter of Gerry Permutt (former property owner), telephone communication, January 13, 2000.

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Section _Photos_ Page _13_ <u>Cave Creek Service Station</u> <u>Maricopa County, Arizona</u>

Photographic Information

The following information applies to all photographs accompanying this nomination:

- 1.) Cave Creek Service Station
- 2.) Maricopa County, Arizona.
- 3.) Pat Stein
- 4.) November 1999
- 5.) Arizona Preservation Consultants, 6786 Mariah Drive, Flagstaff, AZ 86004
- 6.) View southwest
- 7.) PHOTO 1
- 3.) Pat Stein
- 4.) November 1999
- 5.) Arizona Preservation Consultants, 6786 Mariah Drive, Flagstaff, AZ 86004
- 6.) View southeast
- 7.) PHOTO 2
- 3.) Photographer unknown
- 4.) Circa 1958
- 5.) Cave Creek Museum, 16140 Skyline Drive, Cave Creek, AZ 85331
- 6.) Aerial view southwest showing station following its move to Cave Creek
- 7.) PHOTO 3

Patented Feb. 4, 1936

Des. 98,470

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

98,470

DESIGN FOR A SERVICE STATION

Ralph N. Aldrich, San Francisco, Calif., assignor to Standard Stations, Inc., San Francisco, Calif., a corporation of Delaware

Application December 9, 1935, Serial No. 59,980

Term of patent 14 years

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Ralph N. Aldrich, a citizen of the United States of America, residing in the city and county of San Francisco, State of California, have invented a new, original, and ornamental Design for a Service Station, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part thereof. Figure 1 is a front and side view in perspective of a service station, and Figure 2 is a top plan showing my new design. The rear of the service station is plain and its opposite side is similar to the side shown in Fig. 1. I claim:

The ornamental design for a service station, as shown and described.

RALPH N. ALDRICH.

FIGURE 2.4

