

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUL 29 1985

date entered SEP 11 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lindholm Oil Company Service Station

and/or common Best Service Station

2. Location

street & number 202 Cloquet Avenue

not for publication

city, town Cloquet vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Carlton code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: gas station

4. Owner of Property

name Daryl and Joyce McKinney

street & number P.O. Box 206

city, town Cloquet N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carlton County Courthouse

street & number 3rd Street and Walnut Avenue

city, town Carlton state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55111

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lindholm Service Station is located on the southeast corner of Cloquet Avenue and Highway 33 in Cloquet, Minnesota, surrounded by public buildings, residential areas, and parks. Completed in 1958 the Lindholm Service Station is the only service station erected according to the designs of Frank Lloyd Wright.

The structure combines the materials of glass and steel with cement and wood. The cement block walls are angular. The mortar between each row of cement blocks is recessed to emphasize a horizontal element. This is further articulated through a stepped effect -- each group of three rows of cement blocks is lightly recessed from the ground up on the front facade. The cement block walls support a soaring copper canopy which extends approximately thirty-two feet. A glass-walled observation lounge anchors this cantilevered canopy. A polygonal roof supports a slender towering pylon that bears the name PHILLIPS on the upper portion and the number 66 in the middle. (The Lindholm name formerly appeared on the lower part.) It reaches sixty feet into the air. Three service bays for automobiles have skylights which facilitate the work of the mechanics. A fourth service bay, originally occupied by a car wash, is located on the west side of the building. Cypress wood is found throughout the structure from the shelving for auto accessories located in the garage and diamond shaped sales office to the decorative cut elements in the restrooms. A built-in cypress table is centrally located in the observation lounge which gives a 180° view of the thoroughfare. Slanted ceramic tile walls, radiant heat, restrooms on the mezzanine, and decorative planters are all part of the design.

Structurally, some alterations have occurred over the years. The original gas station car wash on the west side of the structure has been discontinued and the bay is now used for storage. Overhead fuel lines that Wright envisioned were never added due to the fire code standards; ground fuel pumps are utilized instead. The original lighting remains intact except under the canopy where additional lighting has been added. The color of the exterior, originally off-white, is now painted white. A Phillips 66 sign designed by Wright located originally in the northeast corner of the lot has been removed in the expansion of the car lot area. A modern Phillips 66 sign has been added but stands separate from the structure.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1958 **Builder/Architect** Frank Lloyd Wright

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lindholm Service Station, designed in 1956 and built in 1958, is architecturally significant as the only gas station ever constructed from the designs of Frank Lloyd Wright. The station is also significant in the development of gas station architecture in America.

Frank Lloyd Wright believed the gas station would have a large role in shaping the "less urban" America he envisioned. As part of his Broadacre City utopia, conceived in 1934, he envisioned the automobile as encouraging decentralization. The scheme of Broadacre City was a framework for planning communities focusing on physical, functional, and visual relationships between rural existences and city centers. Designing a gas station as part of his overall scheme, this structure served as one component of his conception of a new city encompassing the whole country. The Lindholm Service Station represents one of few structures designed specifically for this utopia which was subsequently constructed.

After designing Ray Lindholms home in 1952 in Cloquet, Wright approached the family with the idea of designing as gas station, taking advantage of Ray Lindholm's occupation -- the oil business. Lindholm commissioned Wright to design the gas station reasoning "it was an experiment to see if a little beauty couldn't be incorporated in something as commonplace as a service station."¹

Individual elements of the design such as soaring canopies and overhead fuel pumps brought a unique personality to a formerly conventional building type. Dramatic and enlivened elements with modern influences led to a scheme where space became more dramatic towards the front of the structure and where the service function was located toward the rear of the building.² Phillips Petroleum Co. used these principles in many of their subsequent designs. A V-shaped canopy became the dominant feature in these stations. The appearance of a cantilevered canopy with trusslike supports rising from the pumps, large plate glass windows and the arrangement of service bays around the office used in numerous Phillips 66 designs were directly influenced by Wright's Lindholm Service Station and his search for an appropriate building form.

¹"Cloquet Gas Station New Art Form in Minnesota" Minnesota History, Vol. 2, No. 1, August 1960. p. 1.

²Vieyra, Daniel I. "Fill'er Up" An Architectural History of America's Gas Stations. New York: Collier Books, 1979, p. 64.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cloquet Pine Knot October 28, 1958.

Duluth Tribune February 25, 1984

"Cloquet Gas Station New Art Form in Minnesota" Minnesota History. Vol. 2, No. 1, Aug. 1960.

Vieyra, Daniel I. "Fill'er Up" An Architectural History of America's Gas Stations. New York: Collier Books, 1979. See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Cloquet Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UTM References

A

1	5
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5	1	7	4	1	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

A tract in Block B enclosed by four lines described as center line of Cloquet Avenue, center line of 3rd Street extended dividing lines between lots 21 & 22 in Block B the extended dividing lines between lots 22 & 1 Block B

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Liz Holum - Field Assistant

organization State Historic Preservation Office
Minnesota Historical Society

date December 1984

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone (612) 726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota 55111

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

title Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/5/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature]

date 9/11/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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The R.W. Lindholm Service Station, Cloquet, Carlton County, MN

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Bibliography: continued

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December 1981. pp. 144-148.

Wheeler, Robert C. "Frank Lloyd Wright Filling Station, 1958". Journal of
the Society of Architectural Historians. Vol. 4, 19 December 1960.
pp. 174-175.

Wright, Frank Lloyd. The Living City. New York: Horizon Press, 1958.

Gebhard, David & Martinson, Tom. A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota.
Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977.

Storrer, William. Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright: A Complete Catalog.
MIT Press, 1974.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
11/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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**Note: These changes apply to
Lindholm Oil Company Service
Station in Carlton County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 85002202

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Carlton

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 202 Cloquet Ave.

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS: Please remove address restriction

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988

Date