

PH0364436

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 11 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Norris, E. W., Service Station  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER: Southeast corner, Market and Main Streets  NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN: Glen Elder VICINITY OF: No. 1 Keith Sebelius CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
STATE: Kansas 67446 CODE: 20 COUNTY: Mitchell CODE: 123

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME: Mr. Dale E. Abell  
STREET & NUMBER: c/o Donald Abell  
CITY, TOWN: Glen Elder VICINITY OF: Kansas 67446 STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds  
STREET & NUMBER: Mitchell County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN: Beloit STATE: Kansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE: Historic Sites Survey  
DATE: 1971  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society  
CITY, TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612

# 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The E. W. Norris Service Station is an architectural departure from both older and contemporary post rock buildings in north central Kansas. Post rock is a type of limestone which is found in Kansas in an area covering over three million acres that stretches from the Nebraska border near Mahaska almost directly southwest to a few miles north of Dodge City. This stone was extensively used by the early settlers as a substitute for wooden fence posts which were scarce, costly and not resistant to prairie fires, hence its name. The stone is generally located directly under the topsoil in much of the region; it is uniform in depth, seldom being less than eight or more than twelve inches thick; it is soft enough to shape with a chisel when freshly quarried, and it hardens after being exposed to the air. The stone itself is a creamy-buff color that generally has a brown streaked layer somewhere near the center. This native limestone became a traditional building material in the area primarily because it took money to build a frame house, but it only took labor to build one of stone. Many of the eastern Europeans who settled the area were adept stone masons so there were quite a few competent workman in the area willing to work for relatively low wages.

The stone for the service station was quarried near Glen Elder. The building was constructed of long narrow slabs of a warm, buff colored stone. The arches over the openings have been accented by a lighter color stone.

The design of the E.W. Norris Service Station combines several architectural styles which respond to the building's function, the client's wishes, and the local building material. The building measures 45 feet long, 20 feet wide and is 15 feet high. A wide shallow arched canopy, which is actually a concrete groin vault with electric lights along the ridge lines, is supported by a square tower at each corner. The name of the owner and the construction date (1926) appear on carved plaques set above the voussoirs of the east and west archways. The towers are crenellated. There is a stone corbel molding at the cornice line of the building and the canopy which continues on the square towers. The northeast and northwest towers, which each have a doorway and window with round arched openings accented by voussoirs and keystones, contain small rooms.

The stone canopy attaches on the south to a small building that houses an attendant's room and rest rooms. The north facade of this building, under the canopy, has a centrally placed door that is flanked by large double-hung windows. These openings have flat stone arches. The vault ties into stone pilasters centered on the towers on each side of the facade. A stone juts out on the west tower to support a small cast iron jockey, which appears in a 1929 photograph.

The western facade of this small building has a round-headed window in the tower. A flat arched door and window are located on the south end of this facade. The east facade is similarly designed except the flat arched window has been replaced by another doorway. A double window has been centered on the south facade.

The building constructed in 1929 to house the oil and greasing equipment and a hydraulic lift repeats many of the architectural motifs used in the service station. It faces north and its facade repeats the crenellated square towers on each corner. A blind niche has been centered on each tower. Between the towers is a wide arched opening. A carved plaque with the construction date (1929) has been set above the voussoirs. A Corbel molding has been used again in the cornice. Flat arched, double windows have been centered on the east, west and south facades of this addition. The only major alteration to the service station has been the removal of the gas pumps in recent years. US-24 was relocated to bypass Glen Elder many years ago so the station is no longer situated on a major cross-country thoroughfare, just a local residential/commercial street.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1926, 1929

~~BLANK~~/ARCHITECT Frank A. Slack

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The E. W. Norris Service Station in Glen Elder was erected in 1926 from plans prepared by architect Frank A. Slack of Beloit. Located on Federal Highway No. 40 (now US-24), the building was then as now a unique architectural conception of a filling station.

When asked where he got the idea for the structure, E. W. Norris said it was based on a castle he saw in Germany when he was stationed there with the Army of Occupation in the winter of 1919. He made a crude sketch for architect Slack who then prepared the plans. Construction began in the spring of 1926. Charles Eby of Beloit was the contractor for the interior work while two men identified in the newspaper only by their initials E. W. and L. O. did the stone work. Norris was asked why he was constructing such an expensive building when a cheaper more utilitarian structure would have sufficed. He replied, "I never expect to build another building and I wanted one of which I can always be proud." The local pioneer in the automotive business got what he wanted.

The building was finished toward the end of July. The grand opening featured a free pair of pliers with each five gallon purchase and free ice cream cones for the kids.

In September, 1929, the Glen Elder Sentinel reported that E. W. Norris was adding a small building to house the latest oiling and greasing equipment, including a hydraulic lift. He again engaged architect Frank Slack of Beloit and the new building matched the original in both material and design. Construction was underway by the end of September and it was evidently completed in November.

For more than 40 years the E. W. Norris Service Station served its original purpose, but in recent years it has been vacant. Plans for its reuse are uncertain.

The E. W. Norris Service Station is the result of an interesting exchange of ideas between the architect and client culminating in a unique and satisfying solution. The building is both well constructed and detailed, and it reflects the growing importance of the automobile on the American landscape.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"A thing of Beauty," Glen Elder Sentinel, June 16, 1926.  
 "E. W. Norris New Service Station. . .," Glen Elder Sentinel, April 21, 1926.  
Glen Elder Sentinel, Oct. 2 and Nov. 13, 1929.  
 Muilenburg, Grace, and Ada Swineford, Land of the Post Rock (Lawrence, Kan. University Press of Kansas, 1975), pp. 129, 130.  
 "Norris to Build Super Service Station," Glen Elder Sentinel, Sept. 25, 1929.  
 "Norris Station Opens Saturday," Glen Elder Sentinel, July 21, 1926.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

Lat. 39° 29' 56" <sup>56</sup>  
 Long. 98° 18' 24" <sup>24</sup>

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey  
Cornelia Wyma, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

May 28, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

120 West 10th Street

TELEPHONE

913-296-3251

CITY OR TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas 66612

## 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

*Nyle H. Miller*

TITLE

Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE

August 2, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/12/96  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE 12/6/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER