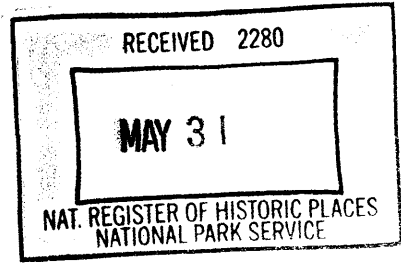


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Property

Historic name Warner's Filling Station and Residence
Other names/site number Eddie's "66" Service / NeHBS #FM05-060

2. Location

Street & number 737 & 745 "G" Street Not for publication
City or town Geneva Vicinity
State Nebraska Code NE County Fillmore Code 059 Zip code 68361

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Michele J. Aul
Signature of certifying official

May 24, 2006
Date

Director/State Historic Preservation Officer,
Nebraska State Historical Society
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 certifying official/Title

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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Elson H. Beall 7.12.06

for
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

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(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: Buildings (3, 0), Sites, Structures, Objects, Total (3, 0).

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty store/filling station

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Filling Station/House type with canopy

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Concrete

Walls Stucco, asbestos

Roof Asbestos

Other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Warner's Filling Station & Residence

Name of Property

Fillmore County, Nebraska

County and State

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.
- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1922-1956

Significant Dates

1922

ca. 1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 for additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	618179	4486775	3.			
2.				4.			

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title L. Robert Puschendorf, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officerorganization Nebraska State Historical Societydate March 6, 2006street & number 1500 R Street, P.O. Box 82554telephone (402) 471-4787city or town Lincolnstate Nebraska zip code 68501**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Everna G. Reinsch, c/o Richard Reinschstreet & number 1624 "G" Streettelephone (402) 759-3602city or town Genevastate NE zip code 68361

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Warner's Filling Station & Residence

Name of Property

Fillmore County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Warner's Filling Station and Residence is located in Geneva, Nebraska (2000 population 2,226), the county seat of Fillmore County in southeastern Nebraska. The nominated property includes the filling station, an associated residence and a residential garage. Warner's Filling Station and Residence is prominently located in the Geneva central business district at the intersection of two streets that define the north and west sides of the courthouse square.

Warner's Filling Station is a one-story frame and stucco building. A gable roof extends over the entire building. A canopy dominates the front of the building and is supported by two columns, also faced in stucco. The building includes details such as multi-paned windows and bracketed overhanging eaves.

Structurally, the filling station is a wood-framed building placed on concrete footings and slab. The entire building is covered with a continuous gable roof sheathed in asbestos shingles laid in a diamond pattern. The station was built similar to the residential design or detailing of a bungalow. That design is reinforced with stucco facing and detailing that includes bracketed overhanging eaves and multilight windows.

The east façade includes a window wall of three, six-over-six double hung windows. The west façade includes a matching window wall except with one-over-one fixed sash windows. A prominent canopy dominates the front. The canopy features gently curved arches supported by two columns, also clad in stucco. Rows of light bulbs outline the arches of the canopy. Between the columns is a concrete island where the pumps were once mounted. Under the canopy is a central entry flanked by large single-paned display windows.

The interior is utilitarian, consisting of an attendant's office, repair room or workshop, two restrooms and an additional room, possibly once used for storage. The attendant's office still contains shelving, a combination sink and drinking fountain, tire racks and racks once holding fan belts. The repair shop is complete with workbench and shelves.

The adjacent one-story house and two-car garage are located a few feet west of the filling station. The house is built partially of brick and partially of frame. The brick portion of the house is painted and the frame portion is covered with asbestos siding. A gable roof with open rafters covers the building. A gabled entrance vestibule projects from the body of the house on the east façade, facing the filling station. A concrete sidewalk connects the house to the filling station historically allowing ready access to the station. The west façade of the house has an attached patio, a modern alteration. The detailing of the house closely matches the filling station, perhaps best described as a bungalow in style. The interior floor plan is unchanged. The residential garage is a frame structure with gabled roof, also covered with matching asbestos siding and is located immediately west of the residence.

A modern, temporary shed sits to the east of the gas station, housing equipment associated with remediation of soil contamination. This shed will be removed in two years; therefore it is not being counted as a non-contributing structure.

The buildings have excellent integrity although each shows signs of deferred maintenance. A local group proposes to rehabilitate the building and is developing a fundraising and preservation plan.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Warner's Filling Station and Residence

Name of Property

Fillmore County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

Warner's Filling Station and Residence is locally significant under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A the property represents an important period of the development of roadside commerce and exemplifies a time in history when small filling stations were owned/operated by individuals and families. Under Criterion C the filling station represents an excellent example of a type that evolved during this period. This property's period of significance begins in 1922, the date of construction of the filling station, and extends to 1956, the fifty-year cutoff for properties judged eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

CRITERION A: ROADSIDE COMMERCE

Warner's Filling Station is significant under Criterion A, representing automobile transportation and roadside commerce. The period between World War I and World War II saw the automobile emerge to dominance in American culture. Corresponding to the acceptance of the automobile was transportation for both local and long-distance travel and the development of roadside businesses established to serve the needs of motorists. Historic resources associated with automobile transportation and roadside commerce possess significance related to the acceptance of the automobile.

As Americans took to the road, so too did numbers of business ventures. Roadside businesses provided the services and products desired by the motorist: gasoline, food, lodging, diversions, automotive repair and accessories, and automobiles themselves. Of these businesses, the gas station was among the first to meet that demand. The decade of the 1920s saw an almost exponential growth in that retail industry. And the drive-in filling station came to dominate all the elements of retail petroleum marketing. Nationwide, from 15,000 gas stations by 1920 the number increased at an average of 12,000 a year well into the next decade.¹

With the distribution and sales of products for the automobile dominating the petroleum industry, the decade of the 1920s was a period of aggressive marketing by an increasing number of competitors. In Nebraska, the Standard Oil Company dominated the field of marketing, holding some 36 percent of the gasoline business in 1923. That market was shared with hundreds of small jobbers and retailers, called "independents."

One of these independent operators was Charles J. Warner, county sheriff, who built his Geneva filling station. When opened, his wife managed the operation. The local newspaper described the new station as having two pumps "so that cars can drive up on either side and two cars can be served at a time."² Tank cars from the rail line filled the underground storage tanks at the station. "All of the equipment is right up to the minute in style," the newspaper concluded.³ Warner advertised gasoline, kerosene and oils, along with a line of tires and tubes. Both Warner's Station and a Standard Oil filling station were first to arrive in Geneva.

Warner's Filling Station was built in a highly visible location just opposite the Geneva's courthouse square. The intersecting streets define the north and west sides of the courthouse square and are two of the thoroughfares serving the adjacent central business district. The block just south of the filling station on South 8th Street became a distinct "automobile row," consisting of auto agencies, garages, a second filling station, repair shops, and retailers of automotive supplies and tires – all serving the growing number of automobiles that were arriving in Geneva and rural Fillmore County.

The station no doubt served a large local and farm trade. Geneva was the county seat and had a large trade area. Also, the Meridian Highway (U.S Route 81), one of the state's earliest "automobile trails," passed through the city of Geneva on

¹ Reiser, E.B., "Oil Marketing a Typically American Merchandising Enterprise," National Petroleum News, February 5, 1936, page 238.

² "Warner's Filling Station," Nebraska Signal (Geneva), March 16, 1922 page 1:4.

³ "Warner's Filling Station," Nebraska Signal (Geneva), March 16, 1922 page 1:4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Warner's Filling Station and Residence

Name of Property

Fillmore County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

the east, drawing long-distance travelers to the downtown business center. In 1923 the Potash Highway (Nebraska Highway 2) was routed through Geneva where it followed the Meridian Highway to and from Wichita, Kansas.

Also included in the nominated property is an associated house immediately to the west of the filling station and a two-car garage to the west of the house. The house (c. 1925) was occupied by the Warners and served as a residence of a succession of some seven owners or managers through 1994 when the station closed.⁴ Its convenient location no doubt offered the opportunity for the operators of the station to be available at all hours. As a private residence so closely related to the operations of the station, the house also represents a time when families and individuals built and owned these types of small, independent businesses.

CRITERION C: TYPE, FORM and FUNCTION

Warner's Filling Station is significant under Criterion C, displaying distinctive characteristics of a type: the American gas station. It reflects the evolution of the gas station between World War I and World War II, a period that witnessed the dominance of the automobile and the corresponding market for petroleum outlets, products and services. The type, form and former functions of this property type reflect important marketing trends of the gas station during the period when petroleum outlets evolved from "filling" stations to "service" stations.

With the astonishing rise in automobile production, sales and ownership before World War I, the corresponding demand for gasoline and other petroleum products skyrocketed. Curbside pumps first met these demands; themselves called "filling stations." They were generally placed in front of such businesses as hardware, general merchandise and automotive garages, supplementing the line of merchandise or services offered. Curbside outlets had drawbacks, however, including traffic conflicts and fire safety.

Beginning about 1914, these outlets in Nebraska began to be supplanted by off-street drive-in filling stations, some of the first operating out of utilitarian sheds. These, too, had drawbacks as neighbors, business operators and local officials looked in disfavor at the appearance of this new breed of commercial structure. Oil dealers, too, sought a more desirable image for their outlets, often borrowing from popular designs and styles used in residential construction.

Type

A typology for gas stations between 1920-1970 identifies the "house," "house with canopy," and "house with bay" as prominent types from after 1920 into the 1930s.⁵ The basis for this typology is obvious; the "house" type derives its nomenclature from its appearance as a domestic house. The most popular of designs in Nebraska were gable and hip-roofed stations resembling small bungalows. Interiors were basic and utilitarian: a small office for the station attendant, perhaps a storeroom or workroom, and a single restroom.

Some oil companies pursued gas station design as a means of establishing company identity, employing professional designers or architects, or selecting a prefabricated design offered by a number of manufacturers. Most gasoline stations, however, were not professionally designed. They were built by owners or local contractors, taking cues perhaps from owner preference or industry trends.

C.J. Warner built his new filling station in the manner of the residential bungalow with stucco siding, gable roof, bracketed overhanging eaves, and multi-paned windows. The station epitomizes the "house with canopy" type.

⁴ Taken from Geneva Telephone Directories, 1926-2002.

⁵ Jakle, John A. "The American Gasoline Station, 1920-1970." *Journal of American Culture* I (Fall 1978): 520-542.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Warner's Filling Station and Residence

Name of Property

Fillmore County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

Form and Function

The transition between "filling stations" and "service stations" appeared during the period of the 1920s and 1930s. The "filling station" typically offered limited services, such as lubrication. Most early fillings stations were equipped with grease pits or outdoor hoists. Its products included a limited stock of common replacement parts, such as light bulbs, windshield wipers, fan belts and fuses.

"Service stations" later offered expanded product lines, such as tires, batteries and automotive accessories (in the trade, "TBA"). Services were expanded to include mechanical repairs. One or more indoor service bays housed these functions.

When opened, Warner's Filling Station offered gasoline, kerosene, oils and lubrication service, accommodated by an outdoor grease pit, later replaced with a hoist. The main office contained ample room for its stock of parts and accessories. A workroom accommodated minor repairs and tire changing.

By evaluating the distinctive features and characteristics of Warner's Filling Station as it was built and as it stands today, all the elements of type, form and former functions are represented. As a type, the building retains all the integrity of a bungalow-style "house with canopy." Its form and former functions as a "filling station" of the period are evident with all the elements of its original design, floor plan and many of its fixtures intact. The grease pit and hoist that served to offer lubrication services are no longer evident, however. The station represents an important— and increasingly rare — property type, the American gas station.

In 1929 the Warners entered into a lease agreement with the Monarch Manufacturing Company, provider of products under the "MonaMotor" brand.⁶

There were a number of subsequent owners and operators of the filling station. The station later operated under the brands of the Barnsdall Oil Company and Phillips "66." In 1964 Eddie and Everna Reinsch bought the station. "Eddie's Phillips 66 Station" continued in business until 1994, when it closed. The building has since been vacant but is proposed as offices of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce and the "Revitalize Geneva" downtown improvement program. The adjacent house would become a museum. Environmental remediation has been in process to remove underground contaminates.

This property's period of significance begins in 1922, the date of construction of the filling station, and extends to 1956, the fifty-year cutoff for properties judged eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

⁶ Fillmore County Clerk/Register of Deeds.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Warner's Filling Station

Name of Property

Fillmore County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Warner's Filling Station," Nebraska Signal (Geneva), March 16, 1922 page 1:4.

Jakle, John A. "The American Gasoline Station, 1920-1970." Journal of American Culture, I (Fall 1978): 520-542.

Nebraska Historic Highway Survey, Nebraska State Historical Society and Nebraska Department of Roads, August 2002.

Reiser, E.B., "Oil Marketing a Typically American Merchandising Enterprise," National Petroleum News, February 5, 1936, page 238.

Other sources:

Research courtesy of Marilyn Christiancy and Joan Heath, Geneva.

Fillmore County Clerk/Register of Deeds, Geneva, Nebraska.

Geneva Telephone Directories, various.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Warner's Filling Station and Residence

Name of Property

Fillmore County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Spears Subdivision, Outlot 27, Lots 15 and 16 in Geneva, Fillmore County, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Warner's Filling Station.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Warner's Filling Station and Residence
Name of Property

Fillmore County, Nebraska
County and State

Section 11 Page 1

Photographs

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Warner's Filling Station and Residence

Fillmore County, Nebraska

Photographer: Stacy Stupka-Burda, NeSHPO

April 2006

Digital images in the collection of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Nebraska State Historical Society.

Photograph	Description of Photograph	View
1 of 9	Warner's Filling Station and Residence	SW
2 of 9	Warner's Filling Station and Residence	W
3 of 9	Warner's Filling Station	NW
4 of 9	Warner's Filling Station	S
5 of 9	Warner's Filling Station showing business district and courthouse	E
6 of 9	Warner's Filling Station and Residence	SW
7 of 9	Residence and Garage	SE
8 of 9	Warner's Filling Station, interior of workroom	S
9 of 9	Warner's Filling Station, interior of attendant's office	S

Supplemental Photos

Photograph	Description of Photograph	View
1 of 2	Warner's Filling Station c. 1925	W
2 of 2	Warner's Filling Station c. 1929	SW

10/25/2005

WARNER FILLING STATION FLOOR PLAN

GENEVA, NEBRASKA

SW CORNER OF INTERSECTION OF G STREET AND 8TH STREET

Scale

1" = 65"

1/10" = 6.5"

