

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Windmill Quaker State (Downtown Parkersburg MRA) WEST VIRGINIA
Wood County

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

fr Keeper *Delmar Byers* 12/19/80

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Windmill Quaker State
National Register Reference Number 82001795
Historical Background

The Quaker State Windmill Service Station was constructed in 1928-29 at 8th and Ann Streets, Parkersburg, Wood County, West Virginia. The station, when it officially opened to the public March 30, 1929, was described in the Parkersburg Sentinel as "one of the largest and most attractive service stations in this section of the country." Its unique design was apparently intended to draw attention to the company's presence in the Parkersburg region.

The Sterling Oil Company, later called Quaker State Oil, commissioned the building; it was designed by architect W.F. Miller, and built by the Plate Construction Company. One George Nichols of Newport, Ohio, erected the windmill and powered it from an engine that operated through the rear end of an old Ford automobile. It is believed that Quaker State Oil built only one other West Virginia station like the Parkersburg example, that being located in Wheeling. As the years passed, the Quaker State company, famous for its "100% pure Pennsylvania oil," sold the station as its interests dictated a change in business and marketing strategies.

The following extract from the Parkersburg Sentinel is a description of the building as it appeared on opening day:

A luxurious ladies rest room is located at the west end of the building. Beautiful draperies and furniture are being installed in the rest room today. The station building and surroundings are done in green and orange colors. Evergreens and flowers add much to the homelike appearance of the place.

A large store room is included in the station building for the sale of tires and accessories. There is a grease pit, about three times the size of the ordinary pit, under which materials used in this work will be kept. At the west side of the station is to be found a hydraulic lift.

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There are eight gasoline pumps. The pumps are custom built and were made especially for the Sterling Co., two pumps to each housing so that the customer can get either white or red gasoline at any one of the eight. The oils are all pumped out of the original containers.

Bibliography

Parkersburg News. Parkersburg, W.Va., July 17, 1977, p. 16

Parkersburg Sentinel. Parkersburg, W.Va., March 30, 1929,
pp. 8, 16.