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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Fayetteville Esso Station
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 145 South Court Street
not for publication

city or town Fayetteville
vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Fayette code 19
zip code 25840

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

[Signature of certifying official]
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
[Date: 10/20/2018]

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature of commenting official]
[Date]

Title
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

[Signature of the 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1 buildings</td>
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<td>1 site</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 objects</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
</tr>
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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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Moderne, International

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: CONCRETE
- walls: METAL/Steel
- roof: ASPHALT
- other: CONCRETE
Fayetteville Esso Station  
Fayette County, WV

Name of Property  
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Description

See continuation sheets.
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form  
NPS Form 10-900  
Fayetteville Esso Station  
Fayette County, WV  
Name of Property  
County and State  

8. Statement of Significance

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicable National Register Criteria</th>
<th>Areas of Significance</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Mark &quot;x&quot; in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)</td>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
<td>ARCHITECTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
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**Criteria Considerations**  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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<td>removed from its original location.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>a birthplace or grave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>a cemetery.</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>a reconstructed building, object, or structure.</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>a commemorating property.</td>
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<td>G</td>
<td>less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.</td>
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**Period of Significance (justification)**

See continuation sheets.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A
Fayetteville Esso Station
Fayette County, WV

Name of Property
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

See continuation sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See continuation sheets.
Fayetteville Esso Station
Fayette County, WV

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See continuation sheets.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested) SIGNED 2.9.2018
- 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 # ___________
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # ___________

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: ___________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheets.
Photographs:
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See continuation sheets.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine 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 (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Fayetteville Esso Station
Name of Property
Fayette County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Narrative Description

The Fayetteville Esso Station\(^1\) is located at 145 South Court Street within the town limits of Fayetteville, West Virginia, just outside of the boundary of the National Register listed Fayetteville Historic District within an area mixed with commercial and residential properties. Located in the coalfields of southern West Virginia, Fayetteville is the county seat of Fayette County. The northwest-facing building is situated along the rear northeast corner of its parcel which fronts West Virginia County Route 16. The parking lot is finished with concrete. The parcel is framed on three sides by a concrete retaining wall of varying height. This retaining wall doubles as the building’s foundation wall in the north and west elevations.

Service Station c. 1945 1 Contributing Building

*Exterior:*

Constructed c. 1945, the single-story service station (Photo 1) followed Esso’s standard building plans from that time. The design reflected a more modern, box-like construction than the earlier house-type plans. Overall, the one-story, six-bay building is rectangular in shape with a flat roof and displays elements of the International architectural style with its asymmetrical façade and curvature of its southeast corner. It is constructed of concrete block which are clad in enameled steel panels (Photos 1-3) on its north, east, and south elevations. Although the panels have been painted, the original red and white Esso color scheme is visible beneath peeling paint. The flat, composition roof has a low parapet on the north, east, and south elevations. A single scupper is in the center of the rear (west) elevation of the building.

The building has two service bays in the façade each with a roll-up garage door. Each garage door is comprised of four rows of glass-filled panels and a single row of solid panels along the bottom. The office area, which is recessed from the plane of the service area, is not as tall as the service area and includes an original single-light entrance door and transom. The office area features large display windows which wrap around the southeast corner and terminate at a projecting partial-height partition in the east elevation. A concrete apron supports the large display windows and follows the curvature of the building’s southeast corner. A flat-roof metal hood cantilevers above the entrance door and display windows and wraps around the southeast corner from the façade to the partial-height building projection on the east elevation. This partition obscures an entrance door into a single restroom.

The northern half of the east elevation houses the single restroom. This space features a glass-block corner window and a single, wooden entrance door surmounted by a glass transom. The partial-height projection has three rectangular openings cut into it. More evidence of the original Esso paint scheme is evident in this location, particularly at the foundation level and the roof line coping.

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\(^1\) In contemporary parlance, “Esso” is referred to as the trading name for ExxonMobil and its related companies, and is an acronym for Eastern States Standard Oil, a company that began as Standard Oil of New Jersey. The name was shortened in 1932 following a series of acquisitions within the United States.
The north and west elevations have metal hopper and awning style windows, respectively. The structural masonry blocks are not clad with the enameled steel panels on the building’s rear elevation.

The property also includes an original metal signpost along the west perimeter. In addition, two cobra-style lamp fixtures - common features of the oblong box style service station era – are located on site. One lamp is near the signpost and the second lamp is located in the southeast corner of the property. The fuel pumps and underground storage fuel tanks have been removed from the property.

**Interior:**

The interior of the former service station retains much of its historic integrity. The interior space is divided into two primary areas: a service area on the west side of the building and a commercial area/sales office on the east side. The large, open, two-bay service area has a concrete floor, exposed rafters, and a structural I-beam. An elevated heater hangs from the corner of the ceiling. A hydraulic lift is situated in the floor of the eastern-most bay, closest in proximity to the office area. Two single-leaf entrance doors pierce an interior wall that separates the service area from the office area. One of these doors leads into a small storage area along the rear of the building and the second door leads into the publicly-accessible office space.

Within the office space, the large display windows have a commanding presence. A ceramic tile floor may be original to the building. A small recessed area historically housed vending machine. A free-standing drinking fountain with a chiller is situated in the corner of the room. A multi-paned wood door near this corner leads into a second restroom (the only interior restroom) which also has a similarly tiled floor as well as a porcelain toilet and floor-mounted urinal. The wall-mount sink has been removed but the plumbing remains. The walls are covered with a cream-colored wainscot tile with a small band of dark-red tile near the top course of tile. Plaster walls are above the tile wainscot. The same dark red tile comprises the baseboard. A metal multi-light awning window pieces the outer wall.

The interior of the exterior restroom also features a tiled floor and has blue tiles on the wall, both of which appear to be original. This bathroom also has a porcelain toilet and sink.

**Exterior Light Posts**

c. 1960

2 Contributing Objects

Two metal exterior Cobrahead style light fixtures are positioned on either end of the property close to the public right-of-way. The large light panel of the fixture would have flooded the parcel at night illuminating the fuel pump island. The lamp is secured to a metal pole which has a gentle curvature to the neck.

**Exterior Sign post**

c. 1960

1 Contributing Object

A single square metal pole with an arm that holds a sign advertising fuel prices. A dual-headed light fixture is attached to the slender arm.
Summary Paragraph

The Fayetteville Esso Station is eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture as a locally significant example of Esso’s mid-twentieth century standardized oblong box plan executed in the International Style. The building retains a high degree of all facets of history integrity - location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association – and features its original enameled steel panels, a primary character-defining feature often lost or covered over on this building type. The Period of Significance is c.1945 – 1960, beginning with the approximate date of construction of the former service station and ending with the last period of physical changes to the property, the installation of a metal sign post and two modern light fixtures along the east and west boundaries.

Fayetteville History

Fayetteville, the Fayette County seat, had seen considerable growth since the completion of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad in 1873 which helped to make the county a top producer and global exporter of coal. In 1900, the United States Census reported that Fayetteville had a population of 413. After years of steady growth, the 1940 Census indicated that Fayetteville's population had grown to 1,347, and by 1950, 1,952 would claim Fayetteville as their home.\(^2\) A great deal of construction followed throughout the town as mining became more prominent in the area. Many of the buildings within the Fayetteville Downtown Historic District were constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in step with the growth of mining in the region.

Just as the town of Fayetteville saw many changes during the 1920’s and 1930’s, so too did the American petroleum industry. As the Great Depression gripped the nation, many automobiles remained idle due to the harsh economic conditions. Not only did many Americans lose their homes, they also lost their cars. And, many of those who were fortunate enough to keep their cars could not afford gasoline to power them. Additionally, automobile registrations declined by ten (10) percent during the Depression years, and to further complicate matters, only 1.3 million cars were manufactured in 1932, down from a record-breaking four million during 1929.\(^3\)

Fearing the worst for their futures, many of the petroleum companies looked for ways in which they could reverse the negative trends that resulted from the Great Depression and the resulting financial strain on the American consumer. The result of these concerns was an expansion of services which would be offered at service stations. The gasoline companies began to build larger “service stations” which offered much more


than a fill-up. With these changes, they could now offer additional items for sale, such as tires, and offer more services such as automobile repair.  

International Architectural Style

This culture of change also happened to coincide with a new era in architecture when designs such as Art Deco, Art Moderne, (which was sometimes called Streamline Moderne), and the International Style were gaining nationwide popularity.

The International style service station design originated in Europe. This design featured a simpler service station with a rather plain design. These stations were smooth buildings, without any lines or ornamentation to suggest any particular architectural style. Basically, they looked like a box with windows.

The Art Deco and Streamline Moderne stations were intentionally designed and built to give the impression of modernity. Art Deco stations featured decorative ornamentation, ridged surfaces or fluting, raised bands and columnar elements, angular surfaces with geometric patterns, and siding of either stucco or porcelain enamel. The Art Deco and Streamline Moderne stations also featured rounded corners, narrow cantilevered projections beneath the parapet, and porthole windows. Art Deco service stations first appeared in 1931 when Diamond DX Oil built a station in Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

These architectural trends did not go unnoticed by the executives of the gasoline companies who soon began to incorporate these designs with their expanded and modern service concept. The result manifested itself in the streamlined oblong box style service station styled with modern architectural finishes which soon began to pop up across the United States. The configuration featured a two-bay system that illustrated the move by the gasoline companies to offer more than just gasoline. One bay would normally be equipped with a hydraulic lift to allow for an expanded line of service work, while the other bay could be used for additional services such as tire changing and the washing of automobiles.

Service Stations in Fayetteville

The Fayetteville Esso station is a very good example of the standard oblong box style finished in the Streamline Moderne style, with a nod to the International style. Indicative of the modern style, the building’s

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9 History Colorado, “Oblong Box Gas Station.”
southeast corner features a rounded corner, a prominent corner-wrapping window, and a cantilevered hood that mimics the curvature as well. The two-bay garage is still equipped with a hydraulic lift, although, it is unclear if this is the original lift equipment. The original porcelain enameled panels remain intact and in good condition on the building.

The Fayetteville Esso station illustrates the typical design of the modern era both in form and function. All the features of this style were housed in a rectangular-shaped building, with the office and sales area occupying the prominent corner facing the main road (although it is interesting to note that the sales area in this station is recessed from the primary plane of the façade, perhaps suggesting that sales took a lesser priority). Adjacent to this office area is the two-bay garage with the roll down doors. Each bay in this station and others like it served a specific purpose. One was equipped with a hydraulic lift for servicing cars, and the second bay would be used for other tasks including car-washing. As was typical for the oblong box, the roof on this station is flat. Another feature, which is evident in the Fayetteville Esso, is the lack of “soft” landscaping and the predominance of hardscapes, in other words, the concrete and asphalt areas washed by overhead cobra-style lighting.  

However, it is the exterior comprised of enameled steel panels which set these stations apart from their predecessors, and that is quite evident in Fayetteville. The enameled steel panel cladding resulted in a modern feel while at the same time offering a durability often not found in wooden structures. These porcelain enameled panels drew the attention of architects because of its color permanence, ability to withstand harsh weather conditions, and its resistance to abrasion. The panels were also easy to keep clean; with a simple wash, the panels once again sparkled anew and reflected like a new car. The use of these porcelain enamel panels lasted into the 1950's.

Although the oblong box form continued to be used through the 1960's, designs began to change as tastes changed yet again. These porcelain clad buildings began to be remodeled. The service stations were transformed once more into a more ranch-styled building. This transformation helped the station to blend in with the buildings in the newer suburbs. Most companies began to adopt standardized designs which were very simple as well as economical. For example, instead of using prefabricated steel, cinder block and concrete were the most cost-effective construction materials.

As tastes changed, many planning and zoning commissions also took issue with the porcelain tiles. With that in mind, gasoline companies began to search for ways in which they could change the appearance of their stations so that they would better blend in with the new suburban landscape. At this time and into the 1970's,

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10 Ibid.
13 Jakle and Sculle, The Gas Station in America, 151-152.
many gasoline companies began to gradually turn the service of automobiles over to dealers and specialty shops.15

Realizing that, like most things, tastes change over time, changes are inevitable. Despite this occurrence, the Fayetteville Esso Station does in fact retain the character-defining features that were unique to the oblong box style of modern service stations, and as such, makes this building eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture as it embodies the “distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.” 16 After a search of the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office’s Historic Property Inventory, the oblong box service station is practically non-existent in the state. The Fayetteville Esso station is the only extant building of its kind in Fayette County. Although another oblong service station remains extant in Bishop (McDowell County), West Virginia, it does not possess the same degree of integrity of the Fayetteville Esso station.

Summary

The Fayetteville Esso Station is locally significant and recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture. The ca. 1945 Esso station stands as the only extant example of this style in the town of Fayetteville. The more modern design of the station stands out from most other buildings within the nearby Fayetteville Historic District, and this distinction helps to illustrate the change in Fayetteville from a small village to a more modern center of government and commerce. The station also stands as a reminder of the days when King Coal reigned through the southern West Virginia coalfields.

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15 “Oblong Box Gas Station,” Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

As noted on a Special Warranty Deed, dated April 9, 1945, filed in the Fayette County Clerk’s Office, located in Deed Book 434, Page 139, the property is described as thus:

Beginning at a copper plug in the edge (next to the lot) of the sidewalk, on the right of way line of Court Street, which is United States Highway Routes Nos. 19 and 21, and corner to lot of James W. Ayres; thence running with said lot N. 43°12’ E. fifty-seven and thirty-two hundredths (57.32) feet to a “T” iron rail corner to Mrs. Francis Phillips and James W. Ayres; thence leaving said Ayres line and running with said property of Mrs. Francis Phillips, S. 43° 53’ eighty-seven and seven tenths (87.70) feet to a round iron pin common corner to T.L. Sweeney and Mrs. Francis Phillips; thence with said Sweeney’s line S. 15° 44’ W twelve and three tenths (12.30) feet to a round iron pin; thence still continuing with said Sweeney’s line along the edge (next to Sweeney) of a small retaining wall S. 34° 45’ W. forty and five tenths (40.50) feet to a solder filled hold in the edge (next to lot) of the sidewalk on the right of way line of the aforementioned Court Street, which is United States Highway Routes Nos. 19 and 21; thence with said right of way line N. 47° 54’ W. ninety-nine and two tenths (99.20) feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary includes the entire parcel associated with the property during the period of significance. The boundary is illustrated on the accompanying map titled “Fayetteville Esso Station, NRHP Boundary.”
Name of property: Fayetteville Esso Station
City or Vicinity: Fayetteville
County: Fayette
State: WV
Name of Photographer: Phil Davis, Allegheny Restoration & WV SHPO (12-14)
Date of Photographs: August 2017 (1, 3-11) & March 2015 (2, 12-14)
Location of Original Digital Files: 1000 Coombs Farm Drive, Suite 202, Morgantown, WV 26508 & WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

Number of Photographs: 14

Photo #1: South facade and east elevation (camera pointed northwest)
Photo #2: Façade, garage doors to the north (camera pointed northwest)
Photo #3: Exterior view of south facing office area (camera pointed north)
Photo #4: South facade and east elevation (camera pointed northwest)
Photo #5: East elevation (camera pointed west)
Photo #6: East elevation, facing bathroom door and glass block corner window (camera pointed north)
Photo #7: Interior, east service bay facing office area (camera pointed east)
Photo #8: Interior, view of office door (camera facing southwest)
Photo #9: Interior, curved south facing glass and wall (camera pointed southeast)
Photo #10: Interior, view of east elevation and south facade (camera pointed southeast)
Photo #11: Interior, view of eastern most service bay (camera pointed south)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 10

Fayetteville Esso Station
Name of Property
Fayette County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo #12: Overall shot of western side of property, Esso station in background, light and sign post in foreground (camera pointed northeast)

Photo #13: Ca. 1960 sign post and light pole, along western property boundary (camera pointed northeast)

Photo #14: Ca. 1960 light post, along eastern property boundary (camera pointed southeast)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 11

Fayetteville Esso Station
Name of Property Fayette County, West Virginia
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo 1: Southeast Elevation, facing NW

Photo 2: Façade (south elevation), garage doors to the north, facing NW
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**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**
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**Name of multiple listing (if applicable)**
N/A

**Photo 3:** Exterior view of office area/display windows, facing north

**Photo 4:** South facade and east elevation (partial), facing NW
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 13

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Photo 5: East elevation, facing west

Photo 6: East Elevation, Glass block partition, facing north
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Fayetteville Esso Station
County and State: Fayette County, West Virginia
Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A

Photo 7: Interior, east service bay, facing east (toward office area)

Photo 8: Interior, view of office door, facing southwest
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Photo 9: Interior, office area, curved south facing glass and wall, facing southeast
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Fayetteville Esso Station
Name of Property
Fayette County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo 10: Interior, view of east elevation and south elevation (façade), facing southeast

Photo 11: Interior, view of eastern most service bay, facing south
Fayetteville Esso Station
Name of Property
Fayette County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number | Photos | Page
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| | 17 |

Photo 12: Overall shot of property, Esso station in background, light and sign post in foreground, facing north

Photo 13: ca. 1960 sign post and light pole along west property boundary, facing northeast
Fayetteville Esso Station
Name of Property
Fayette County, West Virginia
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Photo 14: ca. 1960 light post, along east property boundary, facing southeast
Notes:
The blue polygon represents the parcel associated with the former Esso Station located at 145 South Court Street, Fayetteville, WV. Fayette County.
Fayetteville Esso Station, NRHP Boundary

December 20, 2017

Notes:
The blue polygon represents the parcel associated with the former Esso Station located at 145 South Court Street, Fayetteville, WV. Fayette County.