

ESSO SERVICE STATION

The former Esso Service Station is located on the main commercial thoroughfare in Fayetteville, adjacent to numerous successful businesses and the Fayetteville Historic District. Art Deco in style, the building was used as an auto service and filling station from the time of its construction circa 1945 until the late 1990s. In August of 2014, the current owners, a couple from Fayetteville who are veteran business owners, purchased the Esso Station with the intent to completely renovate it and pursue a tenant to operate a commercial venture in the building.

During the period between the closing of the station and its sale to the current owners, the Esso Station was badly neglected. The building has a failing roof, which could collapse from the weight of snow. Further, the leaky roof has caused severe water damage inside the structure leading to mold and white rot. The owners are very passionate about rehabilitating this property. However, they have very little experience with historic preservation and require guidance to save the site before it deteriorates beyond a point of salvage.

Location: Fayetteville, Fayette County

Endangerment: Neglect

Construction Date: 1945

Background: From its construction circa 1945 until the late 1990s, the Fayetteville Esso Station was an operating auto service and filling station. The building sat vacant for about 15 years, during which time the gas pumps and underground storage tanks were removed. The property has been deemed environmentally safe.

Description: The Esso Station is an Art Deco style auto service and filling station. Typical of Art Deco commercial buildings, the block construction walls are clad in enameled steel panels, and the front of the building sports a wrap-around, curved wall of glass.

Significance: The Esso Station is a classic example of Art Deco



style in the service/filling station industry. It is integral to the historic fabric of Fayetteville's commercial district, and the structure offers architectural variety that is unique to the district.

Preservation Steps: Stabilize the roof structure and interior environment. Submit a nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

Ultimate Goal: The ultimate goal is to complete the restoration of the Esso Station, conserving as much of the original material as possible, and pursue a tenant.

Resources: The owners have invested significant personal resources. They also plan to apply for loans through the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority, and PAWV will assist them in identifying additional funding.

Nominated by: Adam Hodges, Community Development Specialist, New River Gorge Regional Development Authority and West Virginia State University Extension



**ENDANGERED
PROPERTIES
OF WEST VIRGINIA 2015**



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