

BENTON FILLING STATION,  
FILLING STATION BUILDING  
33 East Taunton Road  
Berlin Vicinity  
Camden County  
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1232-B

HABS  
NJ  
4-BERL.V,  
1B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
Northeast Area Office  
National Park Service  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BENTON FILLING STATION, FILLING STATION BUILDING

HABS No. NJ-1232-B

Location: 33 East Taunton Road, Berlin vicinity, Camden County, New Jersey

USGS Clementon, NJ Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
18.452890.4403150

Significance: The Benton Filling Station is an early example of vernacular gasoline station architecture and remains as one of the last relatively intact examples in Berlin Borough, New Jersey. The Filling Station Building embodies the distinctive characteristics associated with early gas stations.

Description: The Filling Station Building is located immediately north of the residence (HABS No. NJ-1232-A) affiliated with the Benton Filling Station Complex. It is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 11'-0" x 15'-0". The single-story building has a shingle-covered hipped roof with wide eaves and Craftsman-style brackets at each corner. The building is of wood frame construction with nine-inch horizontal boards comprising its sub sheathing and wood lath with stucco comprising its exterior covering. The east or primary facade is symmetrical and contains two wood doors flanked by narrow arched window openings. Each door contains fifteen lights. The flanking window openings contain fixed wood sash comprised of seven stacked lights with a arched top light. The building's north and south facades contain arched window openings with twenty-four lights and four-light fanlights in the arch. [The sash corresponding to the south window opening is missing, however, it is believed to be similar in design to the existing northern sash.] The west (rear) facade contains two rectangular window openings. The northernmost window opening contains a six-light wood casement sash while the southernmost window opening contains a three-light wood casement sash. The building's interior contains an office space, a closet, and a rest room. The rest room measures approximately 3'-6" x 5'-0". Interior walls are covered with fiberboard panels.

History: Benton had this building constructed at the corner of Taunton Road and the White Horse Pike ca. 1922. Known for a time as the Pyramid Gas Station, the station consisted of this small rectangular attendant's office and a gasoline pump island located between the station and the White Horse Pike. Benton continued operation of this station into the 1930s. In 1941 Benton moved this building a short distance onto Taunton Road adjacent to his residence (HABS No. NJ-1232-A). The Filling Station Building, in addition to Benton's residence and a former railroad ticket agent's building (HABS No. NJ-1232-C) moved to the site during the 1930s, formed the Benton Filling Station Complex.

Benton continued to operate the filling station until his death in 1962. Harvey Burkhart, Benton's son-in-law, then assumed operations of the station. The station closed in the early 1970s. Since its closing the Filling Station Building, along with the other buildings comprising the complex, have been vacated and have fallen into a state of disrepair.

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Sources: Benton, Carville "Buck". Telephone interview with Glenn Ceponis, June 8 and 29, 1994.  
*Camden City Directory*, 1925. Camden, N.J.: The Delaware and Atlantic Telegraph & Telephone Company, April 1925.  
Camden County Land Records. Camden County Courthouse, Camden, New Jersey.  
Camden County Will Books. Wright C. Benton. Camden County Courthouse, Camden, New Jersey.  
New Jersey Bell Telephone Company. *Camden District Telephone Directory, Winter 1929-1930*. On file at the Camden County Historical Society, Camden, New Jersey.

Historian: Glenn A. Ceponis  
KFS Cultural Resource Group  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
September 1996

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