

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

HABS No. NJ-1232-C

HABS  
NJ  
4-BERL.V,  
IC-

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, TICKET AGENT BUILDING

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

USGS Clementon, NJ Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
18.452890.4403150

Significance: The former Railroad Ticket Agent's building is typical of late nineteenth century railroad associated architecture. Its later modification into an attendant's office for a gasoline filling station represents the rural vernacular gasoline station common in the United States during the first half of the twentieth century.

The former Railroad Ticket Agent's building is one of three buildings comprising the Benton Filling Station Complex, and displays a local level of significance in relation to the automobile's widespread effects upon the nation's environment, culture, and society.

Description: The complex's southernmost building formerly functioned as a railroad ticket agent office (moved from its original location) and is currently located approximately eighteen feet south of the residence (HABS No. NJ-1232-A). The building is approximately 10' square exclusive of a 4'-0" wide addition located across the building's west side. The single-story building has a metal covered hipped roof over the main block and a metal covered shed roof over the addition. The building is of wood frame construction with board and batten siding on its exterior (main portion only) and beaded horizontal tongue-and-groove paneling on the interior. The interior is divided into three spaces that include a single room within the main block and two rooms, a storage closet and a rest room, in the addition.

The building has wide overhanging eaves supported by large, regularly placed decorative wood brackets. The building is entered from a single door located on the east facade. The five-panel wood door includes a single light. A secondary door, located on the north facade of the addition, provides entry to the rest room and consists of five-panels and a missing light above. The east facade contains a segmentally arched window comprised of two-over-two, double-hung wood sash. The north and south facades contain two-light, square window openings centered on each of the two facades. The west wall of the addition contains a three-light casement sash.

History: This building appears to date from ca. 1885. Its construction at Williamstown Junction followed the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad's acquisition, under foreclosure proceedings, of the Philadelphia & Atlantic City Railroad Company's narrow gage shore line. During the 1930s Wright C. Benton moved this building approximately two-and-one-half miles onto the property containing his residence (HABS No. NJ-1232-A). He used the former ticket agent's building as an attendant's office for the gasoline filling station he was then operating from his residence. Benton began operation of a gasoline filling station in front of his residence on Taunton Road ca. 1931. His opening of the filling station appeared to coincide with the completion of NJ Route S-41

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(currently NJ Route 73), which ran adjacent to Taunton Road. Benton moved another building (HABS No. NJ-1232-B) to the site ca. 1941. 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 former ticket agent's building and other buildings comprising the complex have been vacated and have fallen into a state of disrepair.

Sources: Benton, Carville "Buck". Telephone interview with Glenn Ceponis, June 8 and 29, 1994.  
Camden County Land Records. Camden County Court House, Camden, New Jersey.  
Camden County Will Books. Wright C. Benton. Camden County Courthouse, Camden, New Jersey.  
Wright, Charles W. Papers. Marie Fleche Memorial Library, Berlin, New Jersey.

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