

SHORT PUMP SHELL GAS STATION
(Short Pump Grocery)
11441 West Broad Street
Short Pump
Henrico County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1346

HABS
VA
44-SPUMP,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

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VA
44-SPUMP,
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LOCATION: 11441 West Broad Street, Short Pump, Henrico County, Virginia.

USGS Glen Allen, Virginia Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.269720.4170080

SIGNIFICANCE: The Short Pump Shell Station, built in 1938-1939, possesses the distinctive features of a type. Built in the "little bungalow" style, it exemplifies one of the most popular filling station designs of the period. Once common in small towns and rural areas, stations such as this are increasingly subject to abandonment, destruction, and alteration for alternative uses. The building's relatively high level of integrity is an important factor in the property's significance.

DESCRIPTION: The Short Pump Shell Station is situated on a triangular lot at the south side of U.S. Route 250 (West Broad Street), a short distance east of VA Route 271. The station is a one-story, one-room building of frame construction on a concrete foundation. The exterior is clad with wide wooden weatherboard, painted white. A brick chimney pierces the southeast corner of the roof. The building has a hipped standing seam metal roof that extends at the front (north elevation) to form a canopy or "porte cochere", beneath which automobiles could stop for service. The roof canopy is supported by two square wooden posts with recessed panels. These posts are located at each end of a long concrete "island" on which two modern gasoline pumps were located. Only the left, or east end, pump remains on the island.

The facade of the station features a central entrance with a three-light transom. On each side of the doorway there are paired 6/1 wooden double-hung windows. Both the east and west sides of the station originally had 6/1 paired window openings that are now boarded up. A secondary entrance at the rear of the west side has also been boarded up. On the east side is a one-room, side-gabled addition also clad in weatherboard. A plywood clad lean-to section has been added to the north elevation of this addition, and a smaller beaded board and plank sided shed has been added to the east side. The rear, or south elevation of the station proper has a lean-to enclosure which contains a bathroom, water heater, and refrigeration equipment.

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The interior of the station has hardwood flooring and narrow beaded board on the walls and ceiling. A recent electrical fire resulting from the failure of original wiring has burned out a long section of the ceiling. That section is now covered with plywood. The station is still in use as a grocery and filling station, and the interior is occupied by refrigerator cases, shelving, and counters. The interior of the east addition is sheathed with modern plywood paneling. The lean-to and shed attached to this addition are both currently used for storage.

HISTORY:

The Richmond Turnpike (U.S. Route 250) was already a primary artery from western Henrico County into Richmond at the dawn of the automobile age. In 1926, a general automobile repair shop was constructed in the village. Henrico County Tax Assessors records indicate that the Short Pump Shell Station was constructed in 1938 or 1939. The property was one of 28 tracts owned by Sabine Siewers at her death in 1937. These lands were administered for the benefit of her children by two of their number, John C. Siewers and Fred W. Siewers. It is likely that the property was leased to an individual who assumed responsibility for erecting the station and obtaining a contract to sell Shell products. The property is currently leased to Wanda Niel by the "Siewers Family Partnership". The property was vacant when Ms. Niel began leasing it 10 years ago. Ms. Niel originally used the property as an antique shop, before changing its use to a grocery.

SOURCE:

Bowers, Martha H. and Elizabeth Rosin
1992

Phase II Architectural Evaluation, Short Pump Shell Station (Short Pump Grocery)(VA 43-197). Prepared for the Virginia Department of Transportation by The Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger and Associates, Inc., Richmond, Virginia.

HISTORIAN:

David C. Berg, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., Washington, DC.
May 1995.

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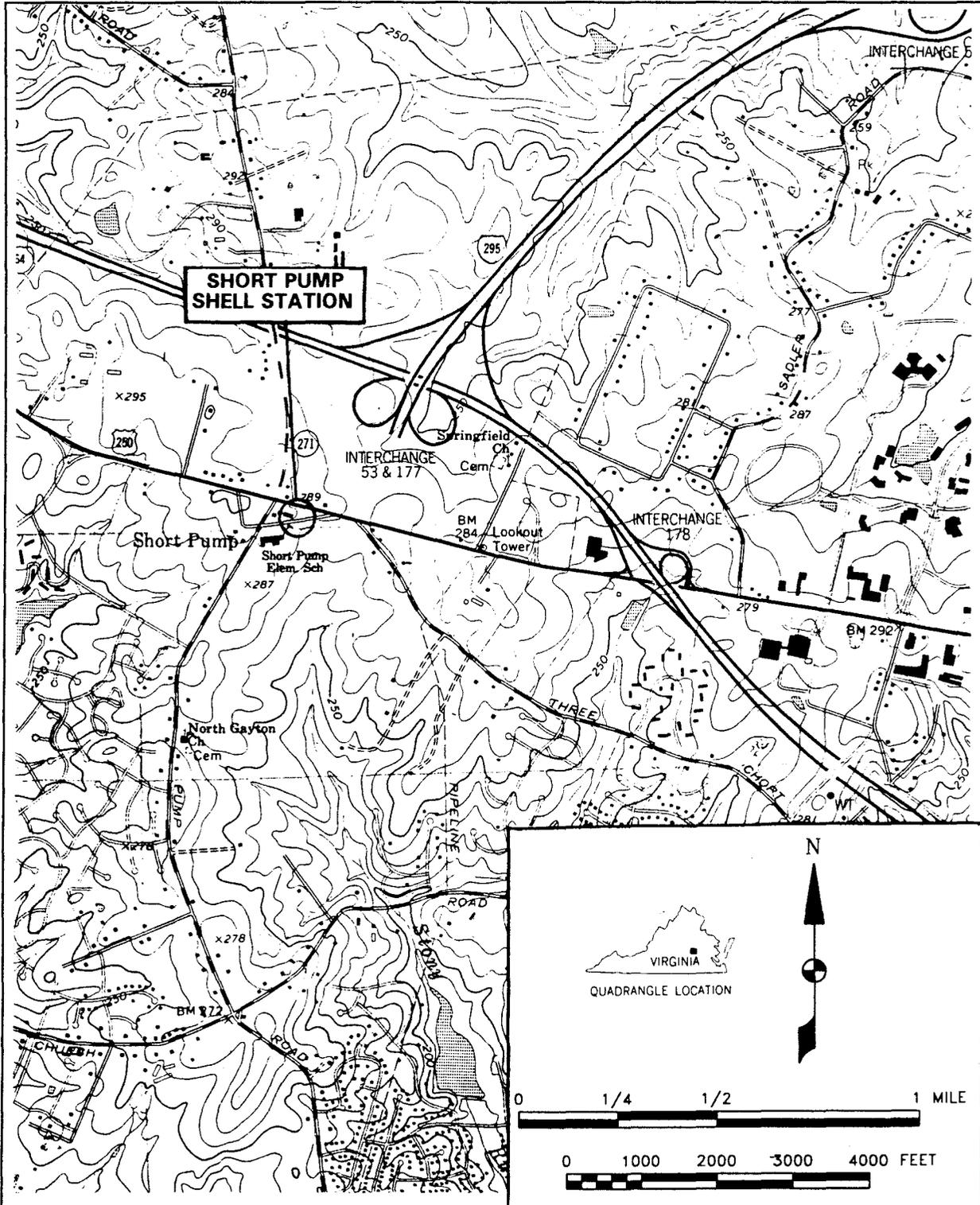


FIGURE 1: Location Map

SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, Glen Allen, VA 1963
(Photorevised 1994)

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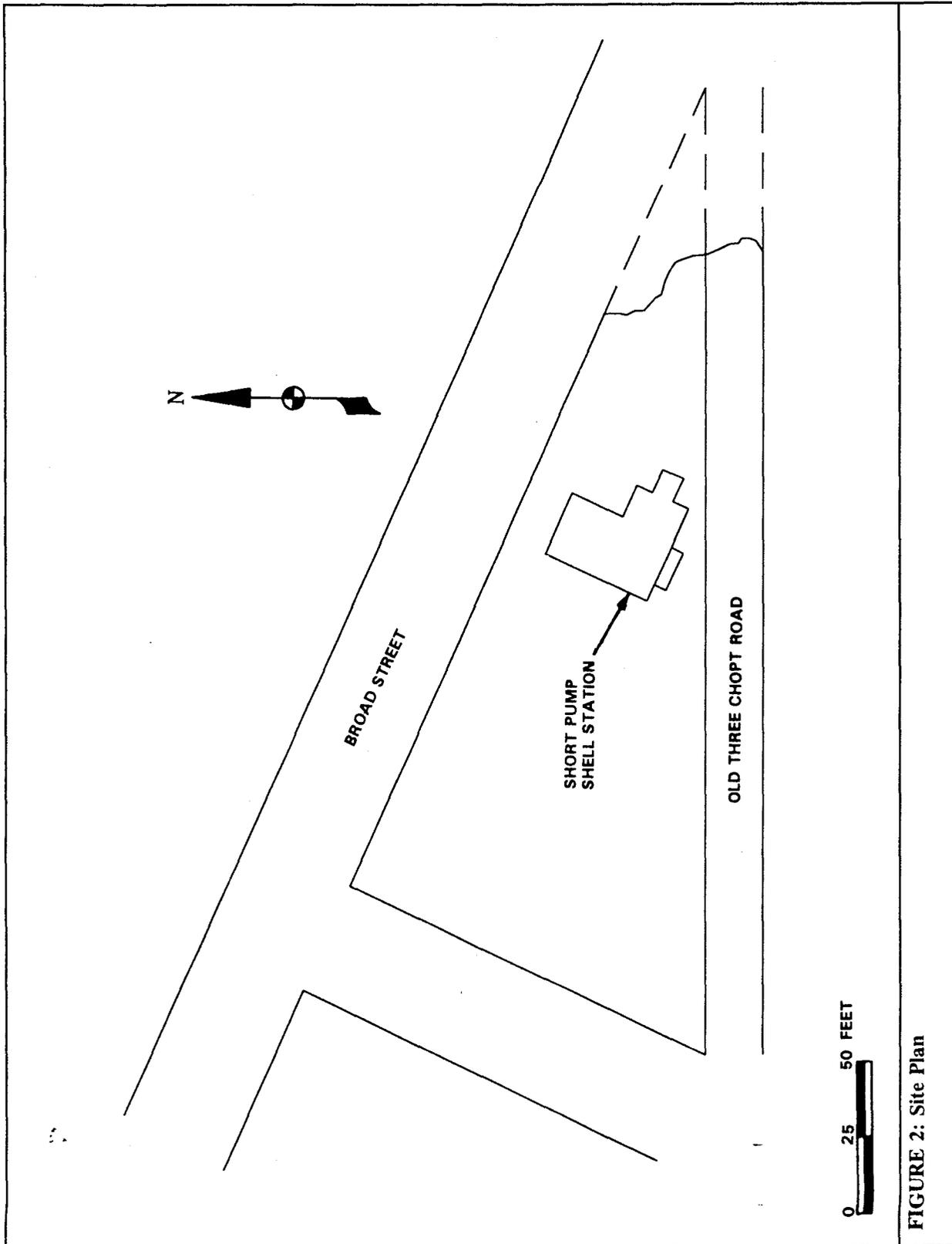


FIGURE 2: Site Plan

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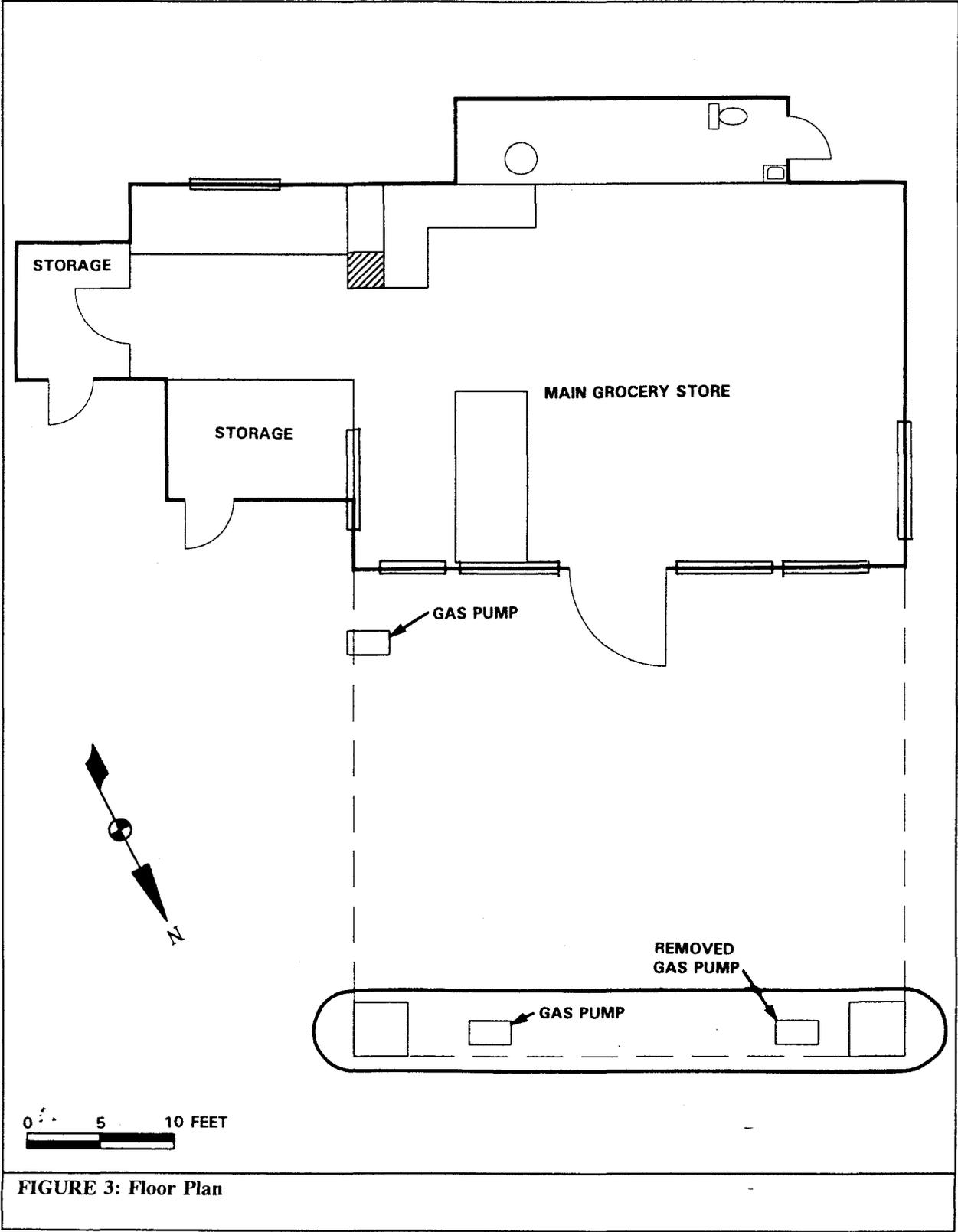


FIGURE 3: Floor Plan