

SHADWELL MARKET
(Shadwell Food Store)
Albemarle County Country Stores Survey
Intersection of Route 250 East & Route 22
Charlottesville
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1376

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

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Location: Junction of Route 250 East and Route 22, Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Virginia.

The one-story brick structure sits on a triangular lot facing west and presenting an angled front elevation and flanks. The store was built in the 1930s in the art deco style and features a number of setbacks and rectilinear masses common to that style.

Present Use: The Shadwell Market, or Shadwell Food Store, is a convenience store and gas station. Evidence of the market's original use as a Post Office and service station is visible in a number of now bricked-in windows and doors.

Present Owner: Lloyd Wood, Jr.

Architectural Description:

Exterior: Shadwell Market sits on a triangulated lot between Route 250 East to the north and Route 22 to the south, with the facade facing west toward the point of a triangle created by the meeting of the two roads. In front of the market, there is an open, two-pump gas island covered by a large rectangular metal canopy. The gas island was not identified as part of the original structure and so not recorded. The north and south sides of the market are given over to parking. The east end of the lot, abutting a cooler structure appended to the back of the market, has a small grassy area and a parking lot with a picnic table. There is a dumpster at the northeast end of the lot as well.

The market is a one-story commercial structure; the main block is rectangular in shape with the length progressing from the tip of the triangular lot to the back. From this relatively small facade, the market angles out approximately 4 ½' before the bulk of the massing continues back 29' terminating in two progressively wider blocks. The massing of the building, with its setbacks and angularity, recall the art deco style, popular during the building's original date of construction in the 1930s.

The setbacks combine to form fourteen separate elevations that display a number of visible scars from openings that have been bricked-in over the years. It appears that the original structure was pierced with at least one window or

door on every facade except two, and perhaps the rear, which is not accessible at present. There were ten regular windows, two small high windows, three doors, and two large (9'7" x 8'2") openings in the rear block. The window scars correspond exactly in size and are symmetrically placed on the north and south facades.

The building is constructed out of brick, approximately two widths deep, with a flat roof of indeterminate material. In addition, there are two non-brick additions to the main structure. A large, walk-in cooler was attached to the back of the building in the 1950s, and a four-bay glass and aluminum enclosed porch was added to the front approximately fifteen years ago. The porch roof covers the tops of the two storefront-type windows on either side of the center door. It appears that the door and flanking windows may have extended above their present height. The north window has been filled with wood planks, while the south window, the only extant, is glazed with a single light.

Decorative elements on the exterior make clever use of the brick. The corners are articulated with brick quoins at the front and two flanking elevations at the northwest, west, southwest, and south corners. The quoins are three or four courses high separated by one course of brick, and are 11" and 15" long respectively. The brick quoins alternate from the ground to the top of the building and each corner pier is capped with one course of three headers. The front three facades are also articulated at the roofline with header brick cornices that rise in a shallow concave curve to the next pier, culminating at the center of the front facade with a flat 3' course of headers, broken by one absent course at each end.

Interior: The interior is clad entirely in gypsum board and the ceiling is concealed by a drop ceiling, therefore, the decorative elements of the interior are not visible. The interior is a large open space with two small rooms enclosed within the first set of setback blocks. The north wall is extended beyond to enclose the second massing and there is a pair of thin gypsum board partitions that complete the room. There is no evidence of the location of a wall that would have closed off the second setback mass and divided it from the front part of the structure, although this must have been the case. Although the north wall extension and subsequent enclosure of the second room is not symmetrical with the south side of the building, the owner has not given any indication that the extension was not original.

Alterations: A number of alterations have been made to the structure. According to the owner, Lloyd Wood, Jr., the market was originally constructed in the 1930s by his family, and has been leased out up to the present. The first use of the building was that of a Post Office, a function that it served until the mid-1950s. The postmaster, Mr. Kirby, lived in a house, now demolished, in a wooded lot to the rear of the building. The Shadwell Post Office, in addition to managing postal services, sold convenience items and, in the rear of the building, provided oil changing service for vehicles. Wood asserts that the large openings on the north and south elevation of the easternmost block were entrances/exits for vehicles, which would drive in and be serviced from below by a pit dug into the ground for this purpose. After the Shadwell Post Office vacated the building in the mid-1950s, the windows were bricked in and the walk-in cooler structure was attached to the back to accommodate the building's new use as a convenience store. The porch was added fifteen years later, in the late 1980s.

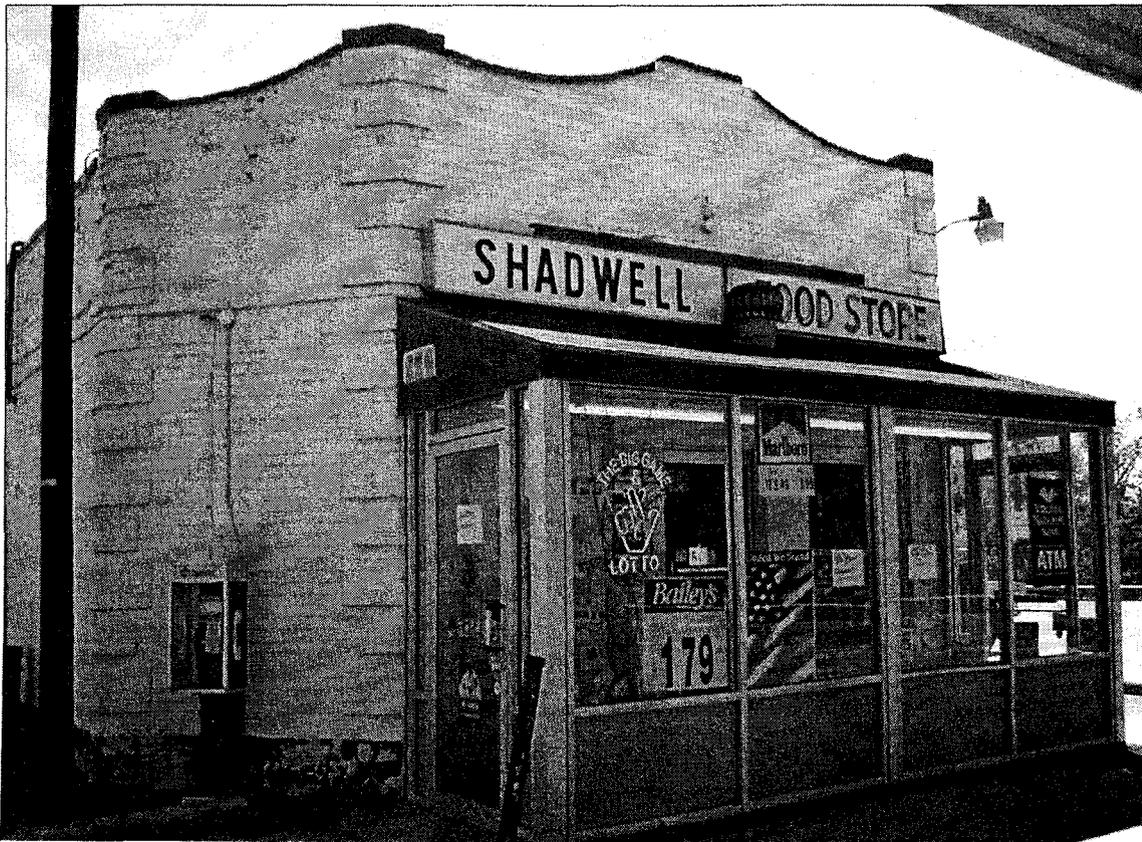
Historian(s): Jennifer Reut, May 2003.

Project Information: The documentation of the Shadwell Market took place as part of Louis Nelson's (2003) field methods class at the University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Architectural History. Students recorded various structures through measured drawings and written description; the record the students created was dependent on their ability to read what the structure was telling them about its construction history rather than on traditional documentary research. This structure was recorded as part of the Albemarle County Country Stores Survey.

SHADWELL MARKET, FRONT (WEST) FACADE



SHADWELL MARKET, NORTHWEST FACADE



SHADWELL MARKET, NORTH FACADE



SHADWELL MARKET, SOUTH FACADE

