

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NCRS use only
received
date entered

**1. Name**

historic Big Pump  
and/or common Maryville Oil Co.

**2. Location**

street & number 903 S. Main \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Maryville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 6th - Hon. E. Thomas Coleman  
state Missouri code 029 county Nodaway code 147

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition:</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mary Margot Quinn Trust  
street & number %Maxims Moorings 4900 38 Highway South Apt. 503  
city, town St. Petersburg \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Florida 33711

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, Nodaway County Courthouse  
street & number 3rd & Main  
city, town Maryville state Missouri 64468

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1980  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Big Pump, 903 Main, Maryville, Missouri is a twenty-one foot high service station structure constructed of wood framing and sheet metal siding designed and built in the Art Deco style. Constructed in 1937, the primary facade faces southeast with secondary facades on the northeast, northwest and southwest.

### EXTERIOR

#### Over-all dimensions

The building is rectangular in plan and the main structure measures eight (8) feet from southeast to southwest and fourteen (14) feet from northeast to southeast. This portion of the structure is twenty-one (21) feet high. There is an addition on the west facade of the structure which is eight (8) feet from southeast to southwest and nine (9) feet eleven (11) inches from northwest to southwest and eight (8) feet high. The grade level is on a small rise above Main Street, but is at street level on Lincoln and south Main extension on the west of the structure.

#### Construction materials

The structure, both original and the addition, is of wood frame construction faced with sheet metal. The floor is of concrete.

#### Decorative details

The surface of this Art Deco structure is shaped to resemble a gasoline pump of the 1937 period. At the ten (10) foot high level there is a slight curved indentation. At this point the structure continues upward for another ten (10) feet. The top of the structure is curved on all four facades. There is a light in the east facade which would resemble the gas bulb of the electric gas pump.

#### Interior

The office is covered with a wood frame and plywood panel. There is a false ceiling at the ten (10) foot level. On the east facade there is a large window that is made up of twelve (12) small panes of glass. There are two restrooms with outside entrances.

#### Addition

The storage shed on the west facade of the structure was added at some time after 1940. It is a storage area for oil, receipts and other materials.

#### Condition

The condition and maintenance of the exterior is excellent. The exterior was painted during the summer of 1979. The interior condition and maintenance is fair.

#### Present Status

At present, the structure is vacant. There is an immediate threat to the demolition of the structure as the City Council for Maryville, Missouri is considering buying the structure and clearing the site for a traffic pattern change at this intersection.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1937 Builder/Architect Charles Foster

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The "Big Pump" is a significant and rare example of Depression-era Gas Station architecture, which though dating from our "Not-So-Distant Past", is nonetheless sufficiently rare and endangered and also exemplary of a popular theme of commercial architecture - the building assuming the form of the product with which it is associated; this building, in short, is an exceptional Missouri artifact of commercial archaeology.<sup>1</sup>

The "Big Pump" gasoline service station has been a landmark on South U.S. Highway 71 for over 40 years. Kyle Phares owned a service station across the street north of this site and often wondered what to do with this triangular shaped piece of land besides drive around it or over it.<sup>2</sup> After his first electric gasoline pump arrived to replace the gravity flow pumps he possessed, he called on Charles Foster, a local builder with H.L. Foster and Sons. Mr. Phares asked Mr. Foster if he could build a structure on the triangular shaped site that would look like the new electric gasoline pump that had arrived. Mr. Foster took the measurements and by extending these built an Art Deco structure that resembled the electric gasoline pump.<sup>3</sup> This resemblance can be seen in the copy of the 1937 photo.

On the grand opening day, Mr. Phares gave a quart of ice cream with each 10 gallons of gas purchased.<sup>4</sup> The station was so successful it remained open until midnight to serve all the customers.

In the first years of operation the station was painted black and white and was often referred to as the Black and White Station. The color was changed to red and white several years ago. The station carried the name of Liberty and later was associated with Skelly and Texaco. After being independent for a time period, it was leased by CO-OP who operated the station until the gasoline crunch of 1978. The name "Big Pump" is the most common name for this structure.

### FOOTNOTES

1. Refer to "Vestiges of the Recent Past", Historic Preservation, (Jan.-Mar., 1978), pp. 2-3.
2. Interview with Mary Margot Phares Quinn. (Daughter of Kyle Phares) July 15, 1979.
3. Interview with Moldred Foster Brewer. (Daughter of Charles Foster) October 1, 1979.
4. Interview with Mary Margot Phares Quinn.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Deed Book, Book 351, page 319. Nodaway County Recorder of Deeds - Nodaway County Court House, Maryville, MO 64468.
2. Interview with Mary Margot Phares Quinn. (Daughter of Kyle Phares) July 15, 1979.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one (1) acre

Quadrangle name "Maryville, MO"

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

40°52'28" N. Latitude

94°20'20" W. Longitude

A 

1	5	3	8	17	1	7	9	4	15	2	15	4	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

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D 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of Lot one (1) Johnson Saunders' Addition described as commencing at a point Twenty-four (24) feet south of the Northwest corner of said Addition, running east to a point on line with the west side of Main Street in said City, South Ninety-nine (99) feet west to a

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Thomas W. Carneal

organization Northwest Missouri State University date November 29, 1979

street & number 303 Colden Hall telephone 816/582-7141 ext. 1289

city or town Maryville state Missouri 64468

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

BIG PUMP

Item number 7

Page 1

Site

The Big Pump is located on a triangle of land at the southwest corner of Lincoln and Main Street. To the west is a residence, to the north a two story commercial structure and to the east and southeast two commercial structures. This location is nine (9) blocks south of the main business district of Maryville but at the north of the new fast food and shopping center strip on South Highway 71 in Maryville.

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BIG PUMP

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

3. Interview with Mildred Foster Brewer. (Daughter of Charles Foster). October 1, 1979.
4. Maryville, Daily Forum. January 1, 1937 - August 30, 1937.
5. On site observation by Thomas W. Carneal.
6. St. Joseph News Press. October 22, 1978.
7. The Daily Forum. February 5, 1979.
8. The Daily Forum. October 27, 1979.
9. Historic Preservation. Jan.-Mar., 1978.

Item number 10

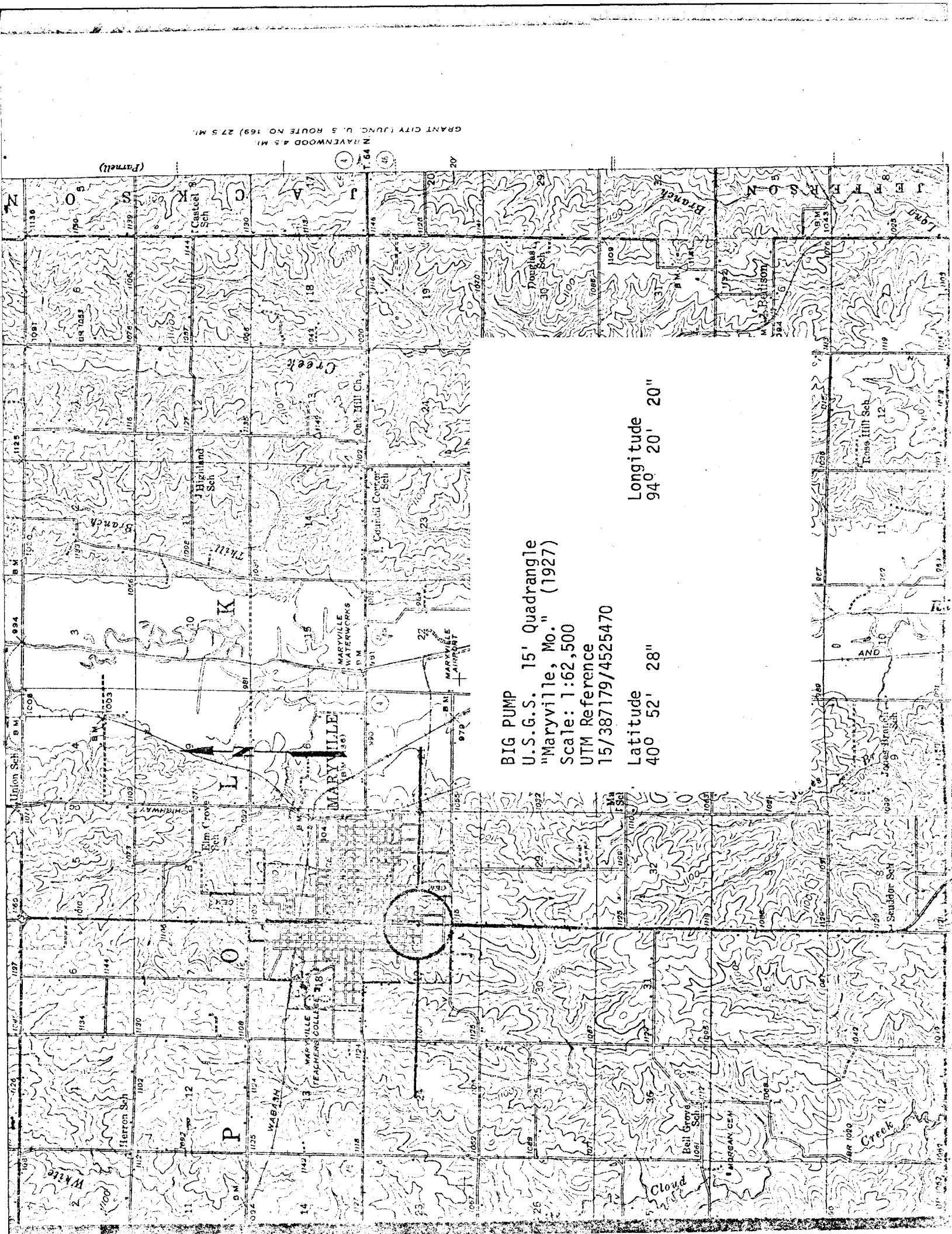
Page 1

point on west line of said lot one (1), ninety-nine (99) feet south of place of beginning, north to beginning, except the east twenty-two (22) feet thereof and subject to the rights of the City of Maryville for street and highway purposes granted by deed from Fred Welling and wife dated August 4, 1933.

Item number 11

Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey  
and State Contact Person  
Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City  
March 4, 1980  
314/751-4096  
Missouri 65102



BIG PUMP  
U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle  
"Maryville, Mo." (1927)  
Scale: 1:62,500  
UTM Reference  
15/387179/4525470

Latitude  
40° 52' 28"  
Longitude  
94° 20' 20"

N RAVENWOOD 4.5 MI.  
GRANT CITY (JUNC. U. S. ROUTE NO. 169) 27.5 MI.  
(Parnell)

BIG PUMP

#481

COUNTY: Nodaway

LOCATION: 903 S. Main; Maryville, Mo.

OWNER: Mary Margot Quinn Trust  
ADDRESS: c/o Maxims Moorings, 4900 38 Highway South,  
Apt. 503; St. Petersburg, Florida 33711

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: April 25, 1980

DATE SENT TO D.C.: June 30, 1980

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: July 2, 1980

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: September 18, 1980

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED  
(AND PRESENTOR): January 1, 1984  
(Jill Johnson, staff, to owner  
Jerry Jones)

DATE FILE REVIEWED:



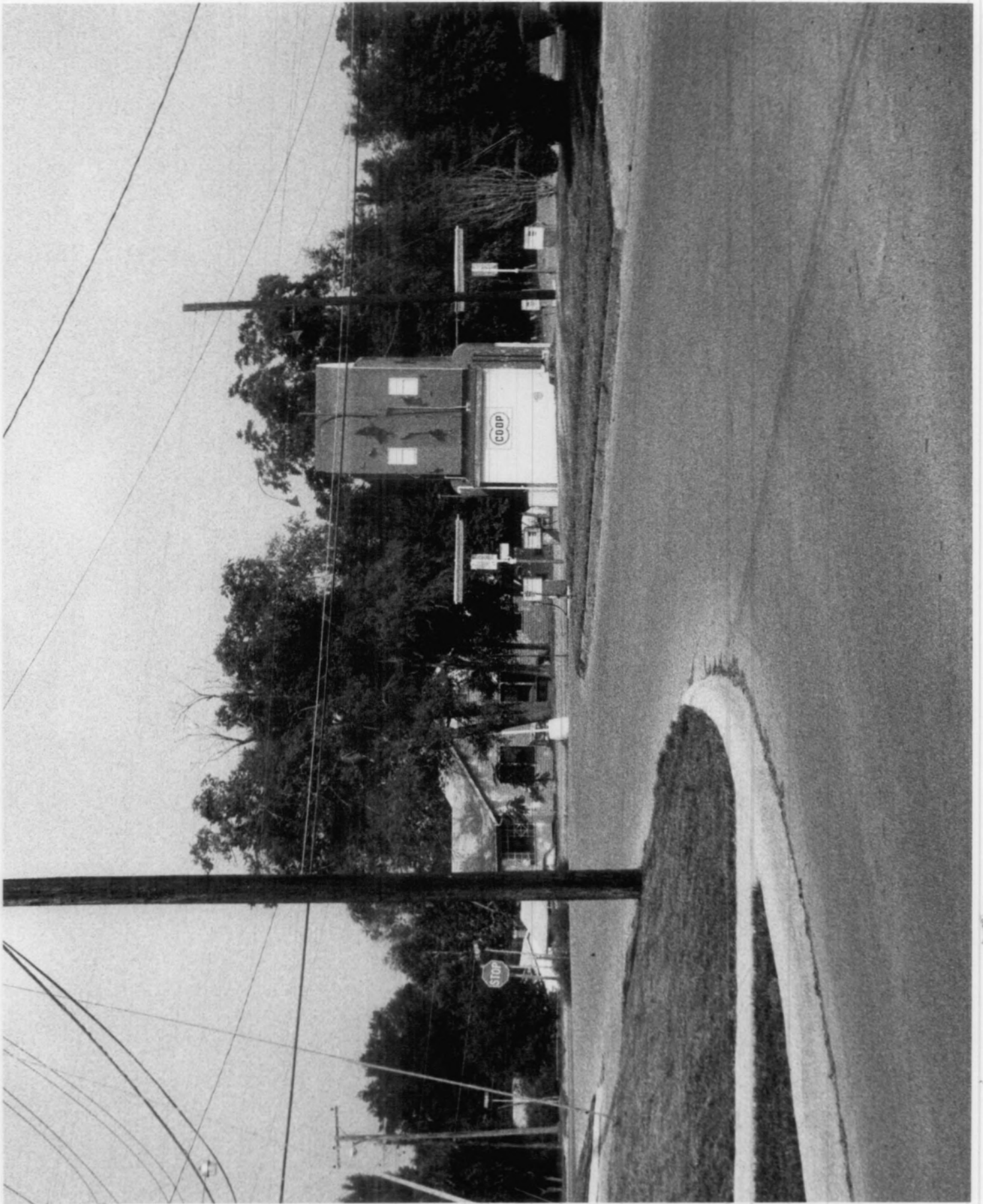
The "Big Pump" is a significant and rare example of Depression-era Gas Station architecture, which though dating from our "Not-So-Distant Past", is nonetheless sufficiently rare and endangered and also exemplary of a popular theme of commercial architecture - the building assuming the form of the product with which it is associated; this building, in short, is an exceptional Missouri artifact of commercial archaeology.<sup>1</sup>

Big Pump  
903 S. Main  
Maryville, Nodaway, MO  
Andrew Lord July 20, 1979  
Carneal's Office, 305 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468

N  
1 of 9



Big Pump  
903 S. Main  
Maryville, Nodaway, MO  
Andrew Lord July 20, 1979  
Carneal's Office, 305 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
NW  
2 of 9

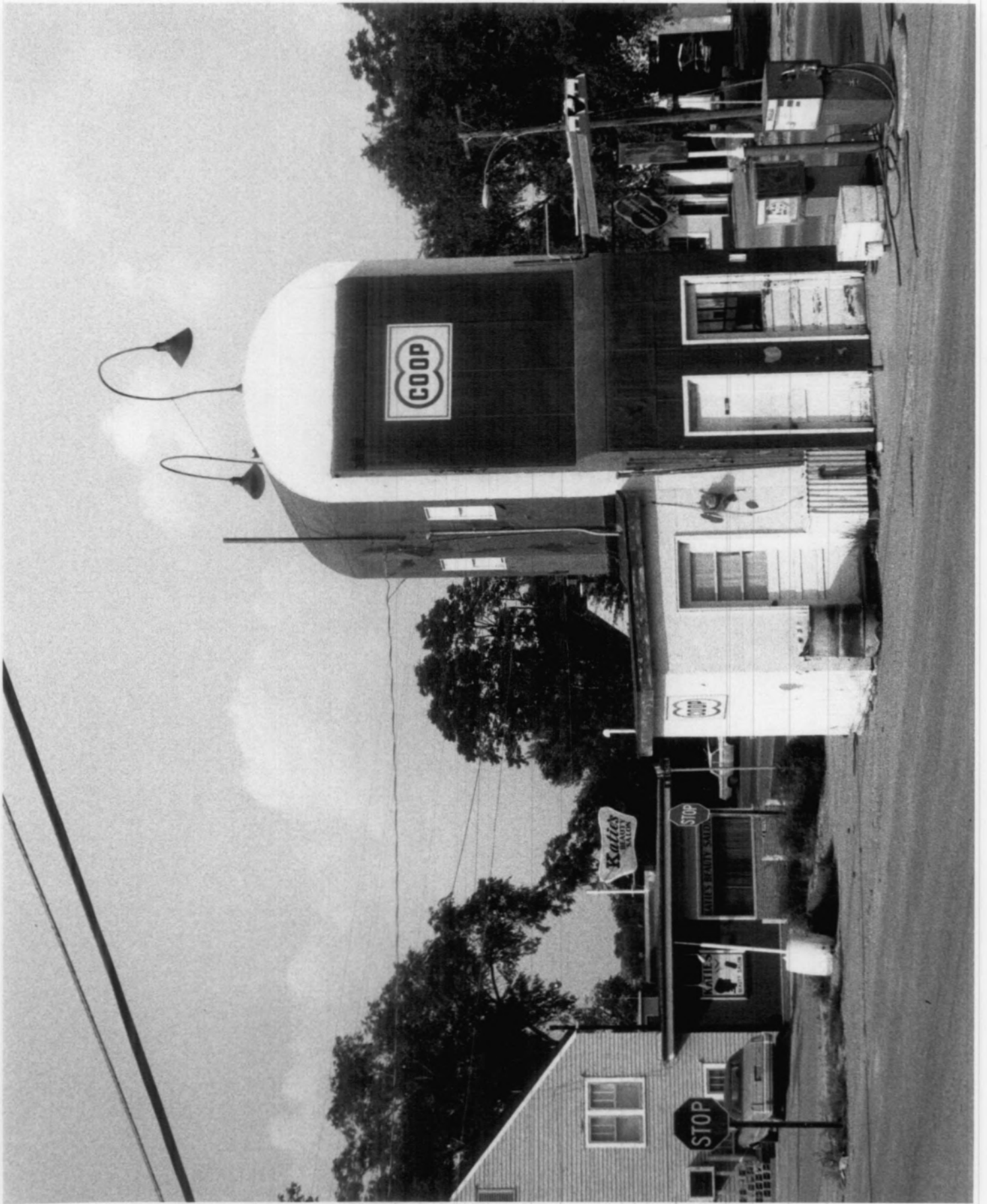


Big Pump  
903 S. Main  
Maryville, Nodaway, MO  
Andrew Lord July 20, 1979  
Carneal's Office, 305 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
SE  
3 of 9



Big Pump  
903 S. Main  
Maryville, Nodaway, MO  
Andrew Lord July 20, 1979  
Carneal's Office, 305 Colden Hall  
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Maryville, MO 64468  
S  
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Big Pump  
903 S. Main  
Maryville, Modaway, MO  
Andrew Lord July 20, 1979  
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5 of 9



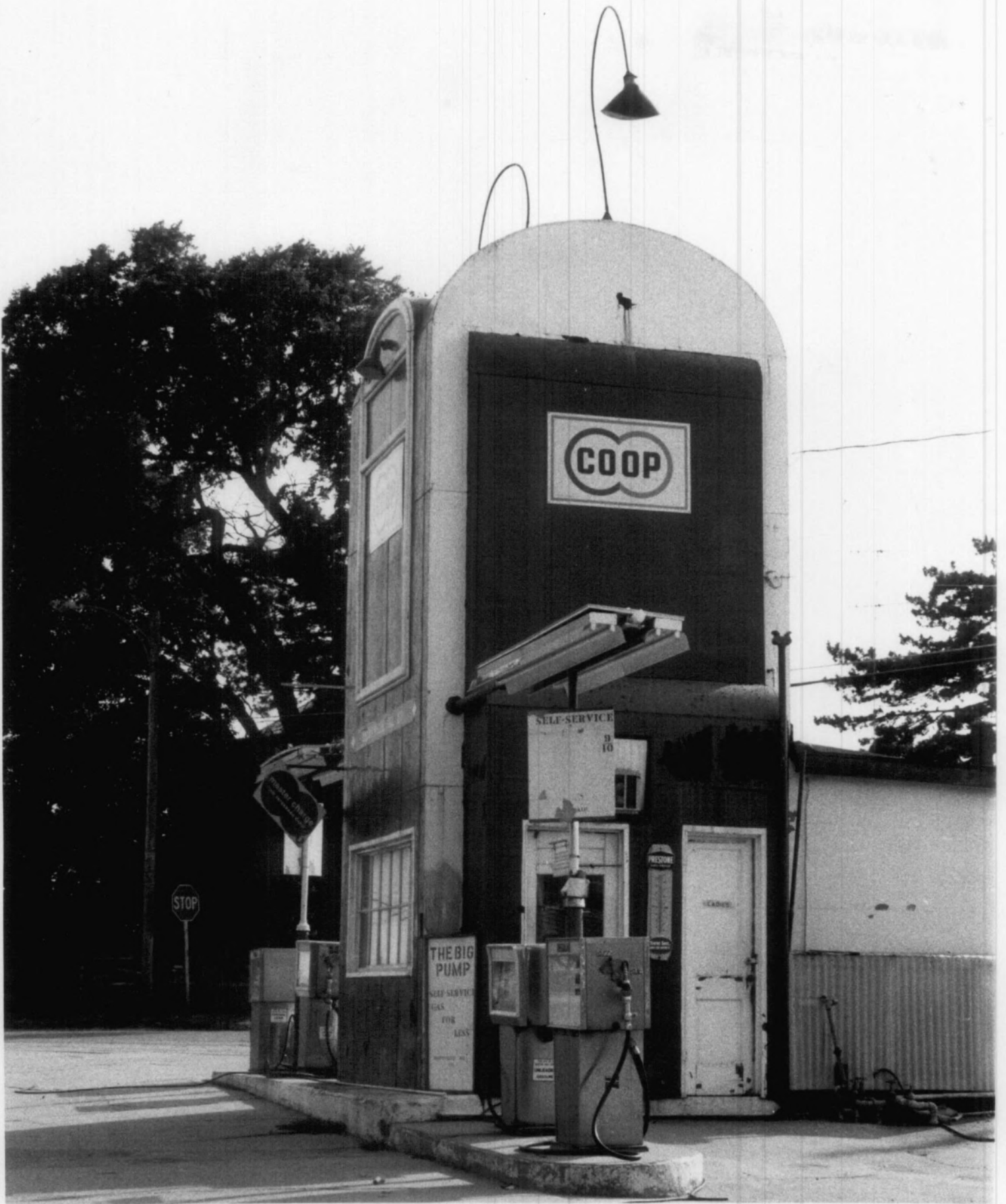
Big Pump  
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Maryville, Nodaway, MO  
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Maryville, MO 64468  
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Big Pump  
903 S. Main  
Maryville, Nodaway, MO  
Andrew Lord July 20, 1979  
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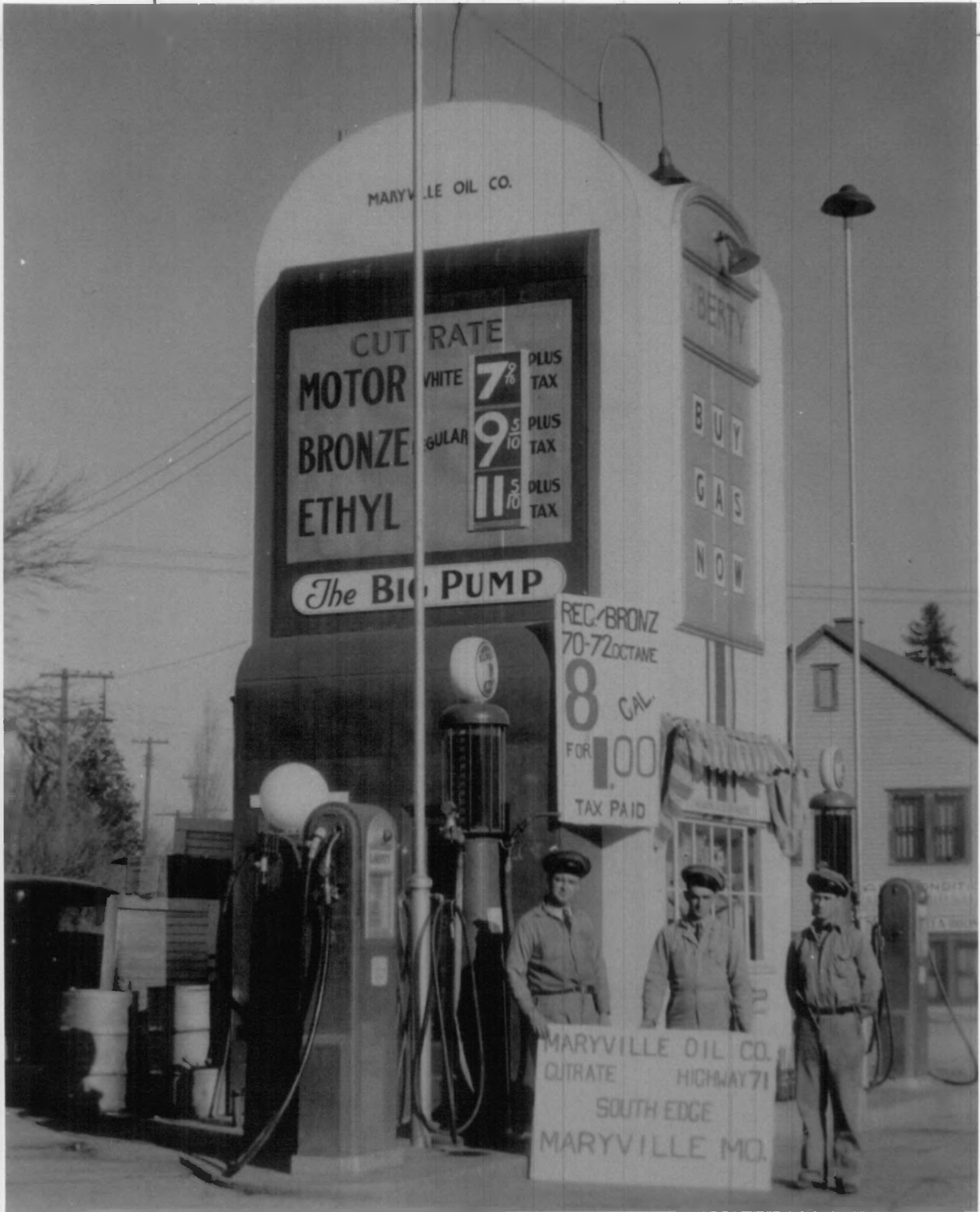
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Big Pump  
903 S. Main  
Maryville, Nodaway, MO  
Unknown. Copy of 1937 Photo  
Carneal's Office, 305 Colden Hall  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Maryville, MO 64468  
SE  
9 of 9

30  
160



MARYVILLE OIL CO.

CUT RATE  
MOTOR WHITE 7 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>16</sub> PLUS TAX  
BRONZE REGULAR 9 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>10</sub> PLUS TAX  
ETHYL 11 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>10</sub> PLUS TAX

The BIG PUMP

BERTY

BUY  
GAS  
NOW

REG. BRONZ  
70-72 OCTANE  
8 GAL.  
FOR 1.00  
TAX PAID

MARYVILLE OIL CO.  
CUTRATE HIGHWAY 71  
SOUTH EDGE  
MARYVILLE MO.