



AIRPLANE FILLING STATION Restoration and Reuse Plan

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Prepared for the Airplane Filling Station Preservation Association by:

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BACKGROUND: The 1932 Airplane Filling Station was originally built as a roadside service station serving automobile travelers on U. S. Highway 25W in a section known as Clinton Highway. As "kitchy" roadside architecture fell from favor and the convenience store gas station took over the market the old airplane filling station fell into disuse. In late 2003 a group of citizens got together to save the building and formed the Airplane Filling Station Preservation Association (A.F.S.P.A.). Over the next two years they got the building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, partnered with Knox Heritage as their fiscal agent, got the underground storage tanks removed and acquired the building and site. Their intent is to restore and maintain the building using drawings and technical assistance from the East Tennessee Community Design Center the move the project forward.

DATE ACCEPTED: February 15, 2006

CLIENT ORGANIZATION: Airplane Filling Station Preservation Association (A.F.S.P.A.)

LOCATION: 6829 Clinton Highway
Knoxville, TN 37921

CLIENT REPRESENTATIVE: Roch Bernard

PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR: Ric Mixon
Wystwynd Design
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PROJECT COORDINATOR: J. Perry Childress

STUDENT INTERN: Joseph Cole

SCOPE OF WORK: Plans, elevations, and site plan showing building restored to original appearance and adapted for reuse with accessible entry and restroom.

CLOSING DATE: November 15, 2006



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Aeroplane Filling Station was originally built in 1932 and is an excellent example of a type of building style known as roadside architecture. It was built in the shape of an airplane complete with wings, propeller, tail fin, and a real period feature known as gyro rotor blades. In the early days of aviation they sometimes used four horizontal rotor blades on the roof of the plane to shorten take-off and landing distances. The blades were powered by the wind created by the moving airplane as the mechanism to power the blades like modern helicopters was not yet developed. The wings served as awnings that covered the service area. The building was abandoned and falling into disrepair prompting a group of citizens to form the Airplane Filling Station Preservation Association for the purpose of restoring and maintaining the structure. Possible uses include a small museum to the history of the building and the area and office space for a local watershed agency, nonprofit, or other small office.

DETAILED INFORMATION

Volunteer architect Ric Mixon and Community Design Center student intern Joseph Cole used copies of the original plans to the building to develop original as-built drawings. Historic and proposed plans both include the restoration of the propeller and gyro rotor as well as original windows and graphics. The proposed plans were developed to adapt the building to modern use with an updated restroom and handicap accessibility. The proposal includes returning the interior floor level to its original elevation and providing an access ramp at the rear of the building. The ramp is proposed to be built to look like a 1930's boarding stair of the type typically used at small airports to provide passenger access to airplanes. These portable stairs were rolled or driven up to the parked aircraft and the passengers climbed the stairs to board. A site plan was also prepared showing improved parking and a simple bollard and cable barrier along the Clinton Highway side. Removal or relocation of an existing billboard and outbuilding at the front and rear of the building, respectively, is also recommended.



Historic Photographs

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The following are two of the historic photographs of the Aeroplane Filling Station provided to the East Tennessee Community Design Center by the Airplane Filling Station Preservation Association for use in reconstructing the buildings original appearance.

- 4 Circa 1932 photograph taken shortly after the building was built
- 5 Later photograph taken after the gyro rotor blades were installed.



These drawings represent design intent only and are NOT intended for, nor should they be used as, construction documents. Further professional assistance may be required to provide those services. The client accepts all liability for the use of these drawings.

- 7 Historic plans showing original size and restroom configuration
- 8 Proposed plans with accessible restroom and entry
- 9 Proposed site plan