

D-787  
Hurst Brothers Service Station  
Vienna  
1927  
Town Museum

The Hurst Brothers service station, built in 1927, was one of the earliest buildings to its type on the lower Eastern Shore, and its canopied front is characteristic of the first generation of stations built to shelter automobiles while being serviced. Designed and built in a largely functional manner, the station is finished with materials typical for the period. Resting on a concrete block foundation, the building has a poured concrete floor, and the principal façade features a recessed double door entrance typical of the nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings. Narrow tongue-and-groove beaded boards finish the interior walls and ceiling.

Partner brothers A. Milby Hurst and J. Lloyd Hurst financed construction of this service station the year following their purchase of the old blacksmith shop property owned and operated by Elmer N. Creighton. Louise Creighton, Elmer's widow, and Juna B. Creighton, then residents of Wilmington, Delaware, sold the property to the Hurst partners in November 1926. The old blacksmith shop structure was repositioned on the lot on a concrete pad, when the new station with its canopied front was sited directly on Race Street. The service station remained in Hurst family ownership until the mid 1970s. The commissioners of the Town of Vienna acquired the old station in 2002 and adapted the building to a heritage museum.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of

### Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-787

#### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Hurst Brothers Service Station

other

#### 2. Location

street and number 303 Race Street not for publication

city, town Vienna vicinity

county Dorchester

#### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name Town Commissioners of Vienna

street and number P. O. Box 86 telephone

city, town Vienna state MD zip code 21869-0183

#### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 492 folio 513

city, town Cambridge tax map 500 tax parcel 43 tax ID number 03-040992

#### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- ☐ Other:

#### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Contributing 1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	Contributing 1
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	Noncontributing buildings
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	structures
			objects
			Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-787

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Hurst Brothers Service Station is a single-story hip roofed frame structure located at 303 Race Street in the center of Vienna, Dorchester County, Maryland. Built around 1920-30 with a poured concrete floor and perimeter block foundation, the exterior is clad with vinyl siding over plain weatherboards. The medium pitched hip roof is covered with fiberglass shingles. Facing southwest, the hip roof is oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. The rectangular frame structure has an expansive front canopy, known formally as a porte cochere, that is supported on replacement square posts. The front wall of the service station under the canopy retains its original double entrance, while the adjacent display bays have replacement windows. The interior retains original wall and ceiling finishes of tongue-and-groove beaded boards. The building is currently used as a town museum.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Hurst Brothers Service Station stands at 303 Race street in the quiet commercial district of Vienna, Dorchester County, Maryland. Built around 1920-30, the single-story rectangular frame structure was built on a concrete block foundation and is sheathed with plain weatherboards, while the rear wall is sheathed with vinyl siding. A medium pitched hip roof is covered with fiberglass shingles.

The southwest (main) elevation is dominated by the projecting canopy drive-through common to early twentieth-century service stations. A poured concrete floor is underfoot, while the canopy ceiling is finished with narrow tongue-and-groove beaded boards. The four square shaped posts are replacements. The front wall of the station has a recessed double-door entrance and flanking display windows. The partially glazed doors are original and feature four panes above the lock rail and two panels below the lock rail which retains original early twentieth-century hardware. The doorway is topped by a seven-pane transom. The adjacent window bays have been refitted with replacement sash, although eight-pane transom windows remain intact above the paired front windows, and four-pane transom lights are fixed above the angled side windows that are on each side of the front entrance.

The sides of the station are relatively plain with three small rectangular windows located high of the wall surface to allow for interior shelving. A replacement window is located at the south end of the wall surface. The edge of the roof is finished with a plain boxed cornice.

The rear wall, sheathed with vinyl siding, has a plain gable end form finished with a flush eave.

Inside the station, the walls and ceiling are sheathed with narrow beaded edge tongue-and-groove boards with shelving on each side wall used originally for merchandise storage and now employed for object display.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-787

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SUMMARY SIGNIFICANCE

The Hurst Brothers service station, built around 1927, is representative of the early twentieth century shift in transportation from horse drawn wagons and buggies to automobiles. Designed with a protective shelter or canopy on posts above a poured concrete floor, the station provided for protection from the elements when pumping gas. The service station was built in the site of the Creighton blacksmith shop and next to the nineteenth century wagon shop as depicted on the Vienna town map printed in the 1877 Eastern Shore atlas.

Built in a largely functional manner, the service station is finished with typical materials for the period with a poured concrete floor, concrete block foundation, and a storefront style principal façade with a double-door entrance typical of late nineteenth century. The interior is finished in a traditional manner for late nineteenth century stores with tongue-and-groove beaded boards finishing the ceiling and walls.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Partners A. Milby and J. Lloyd Hurst financed construction of this single-story service station in 1927, the year after their purchase of the old blacksmith shop property operated by Elmer N. Creighton.<sup>1</sup> Louise Creighton, Elmer's widow, and Juna B. Creighton, then residents of Wilmington, Delaware, sold the property to the Hurst partners in November 1926.<sup>2</sup> The old blacksmith shop was relocated to the back of the lot on concrete pad when the new station was erected with its canopy front on Race Street. The service station remained in Hurst family ownership and operation until the mid 1970s.

<sup>1</sup> Personal phone interview with Steve Hurst, 2.11.2010.

<sup>2</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 19/178, 6 November 1926, Dorchester County Courthouse.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-787

Name Hurst Brothers Service Station  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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Hurst Brothers Service Station  
303 Race Street  
Vienna, Dorchester County, Maryland

## CHAIN-OF-TITLE

Map 500, Parcel 43

MLB 492/513

William A. Larmore, III

to

8.28.2002

Commissioners of Vienna

\$62,786.12

406/174

Vernon G. Boog

to

7.8.1959

William A. Larmore, III

PLC 291/587

Vernon G. Boog

to

7.29.1993

Vernon G. Boog

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Name Hurst Brothers Service Station  
**Continuation Sheet**

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PLC 244/22

1. Herman A. Boog, et ux, Nellie S. Boog

to

3.11.1987

Vernon G. Boog

259/775

2. Robert K. Canter

to

12.27.1989

Herman A. Boog

Lot No. 1

PLC 236/870

James S. Hurst and Fannie H. Hurst

to

10.1.1985

Herman A. Boog and Nellie S. Boog  
\$5,000

PLC 213/633

James Granville Hurst and James S. Hurst

to

2.21.1980

James S. Hurst and Fannie H. Hurst

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Hurst Brothers Service Station  
**Continuation Sheet**

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PLC 192/486

James Granville Hurst

to

12.3.1975

James Granville Hurst and James S. Hurst, joint tenants

RSM 100/19

Robert H. Spear

to

5.4.1956

James Granville Hurst and Evelyn P. Hurst

All that property on the north side of Race Street, which is Bounded on the east and north by the property of Frank W. Higgins and others, on the west by the property of J. Walter Spear; on the south by Race Street, it being the same property that was conveyed to Louise Creighton by the County Commissioners for Dorchester County, dated 6 July 1926, and recorded JFD 18/457;

JFD 19/178

Louise Creighton, widow and Elmer N. Creighton, and Julia B. Creighton, Wilmington, Delaware

to

11.6.1926

A. Milby Hurst and J. Lloyd Hurst

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Name Hurst Brothers Service Station  
**Continuation Sheet**

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WHM 2/309

John W. T. Webb

to

7.30.1916

Elmer N. Creighton

“old blacksmith shop property” reference found in deed for adjacent property to the south, see JFD 21/471-72.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-787

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>8,834 square feet</u>
Acreage of historical setting	<u>8,834 square feet +/-</u>
Quadrangle name	<u>Sharptown, MD-DEL</u>

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

## 11. Form Prepared by

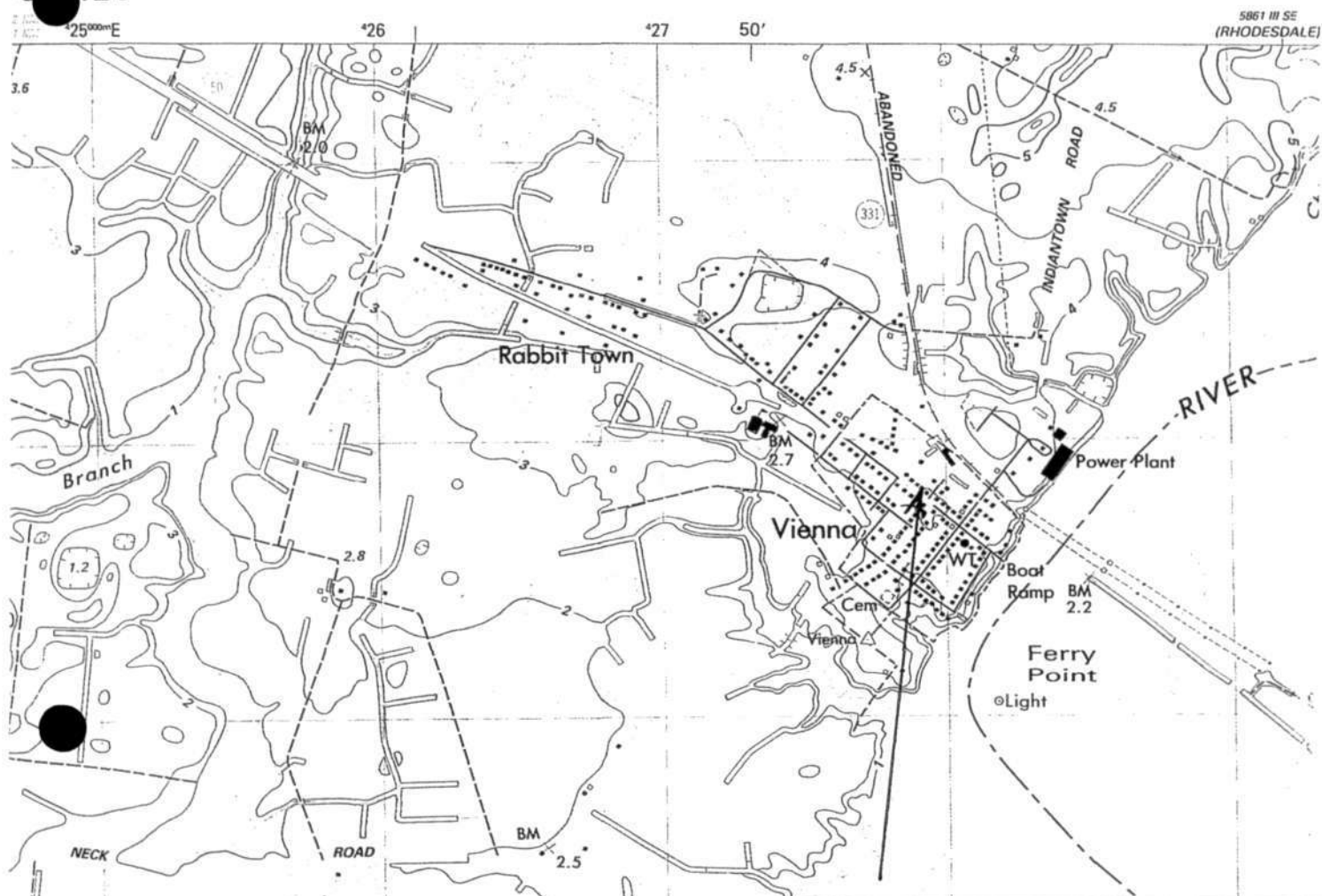
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	12/3/2010
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

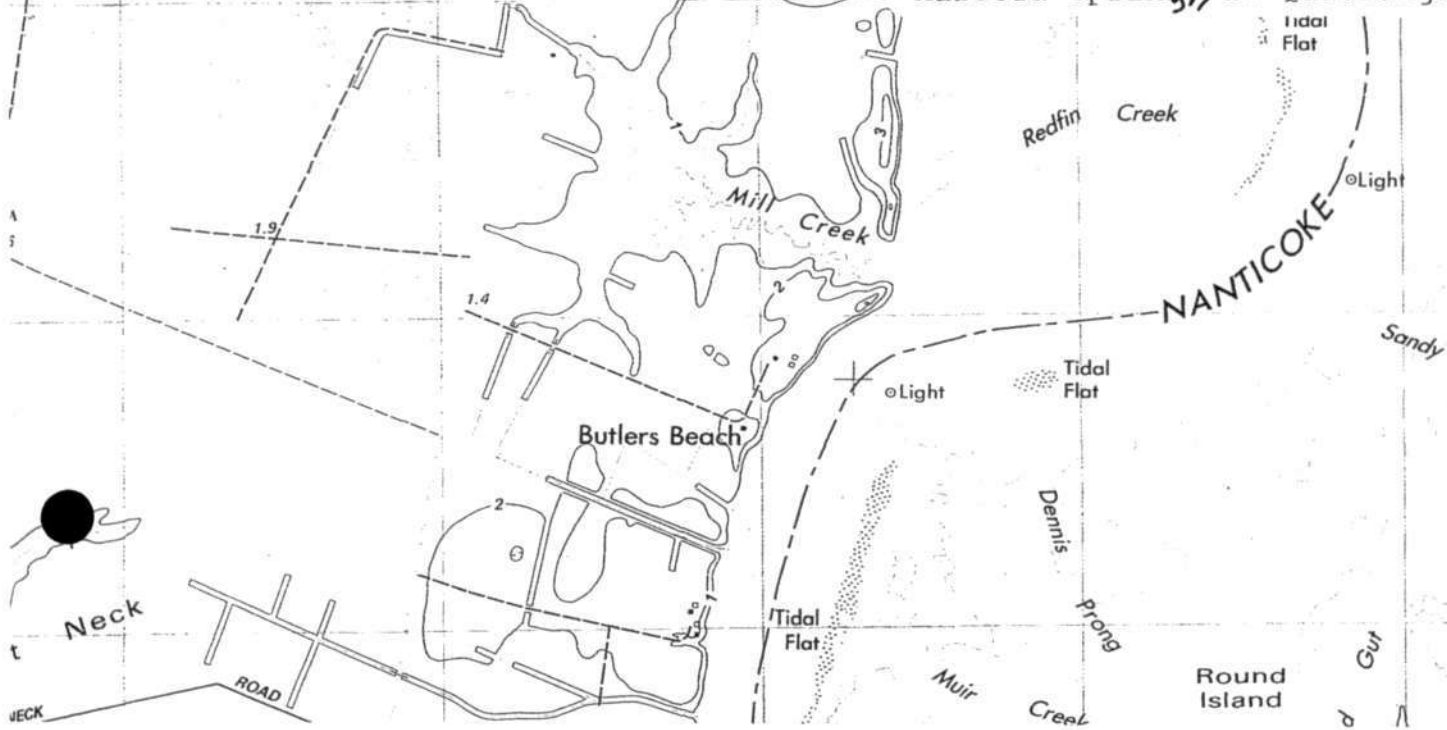
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# STATES THE INTERIOR SURVEY



D-787, Hurst Brothers Service St.  
 Mardela Springs, MD Quadrangle





D-787

ITURST BROTHERS SERVICE STATION  
VIENNA, DOXCETEBER A., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

12.2009, PAUL B. TOUTER, PITOTU  
OET. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 1