

BRIARCLIFF WELLS SERVICE STATION
East side of Taconic State Parkway,
.6 mile south of Pleasantville Road
Mount Pleasant Township
Westchester County
New York

HABS No. NY-6326

HABS
NY
60-MOUP,
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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, PA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BRIARCLIFF WELLS SERVICE STATION

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Location: Taconic State Parkway - Northbound, Mount Pleasant, Westchester County, New York

USGS Ossining, New York Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18.599400.4554580

Significance: The Briarcliff Wells Service Station exemplifies early 20th century parkway architecture, distinctive in plan and workmanship, and representing the single full restaurant/garage service facility built by the Westchester County Park Commission.

Description: The service station faces the Taconic State Parkway, Northbound lane. It is a one-storey building constructed of stone masonry on concrete footings on an off-center cross plan, with boatsiding in the front (west), south and east gables, a masonry chimney and slate roof. Slate is used for detailing on the cornice and windows of the north wing and on the supports of the porte cochere. Wooden trimwork consists of the front entry and paneled west elevation window inset (removed), cornice vergeboard, and brackets and exposed beams on the porte cochere. The original six, eight and twelve light casement windows, removed or damaged in all but one case, have bluestone sills and bluestone or concrete lintels. Other features, including original gasoline and air pumps, exterior lighting fixtures and copper rain gutters (shown on building plans) have been removed. The building is divided into the following sections by original use: a front porte cochere off a central sales room, lavatories and tire repair area in the north wing, garage and storage area in the east wing, storage areas behind the sales room at center, kitchen and restaurant in the south wing, leading to an outdoor, fenced dining terrace at the southeast corner. A small, hipped-roofed, stone pumphouse is located south of the main building.

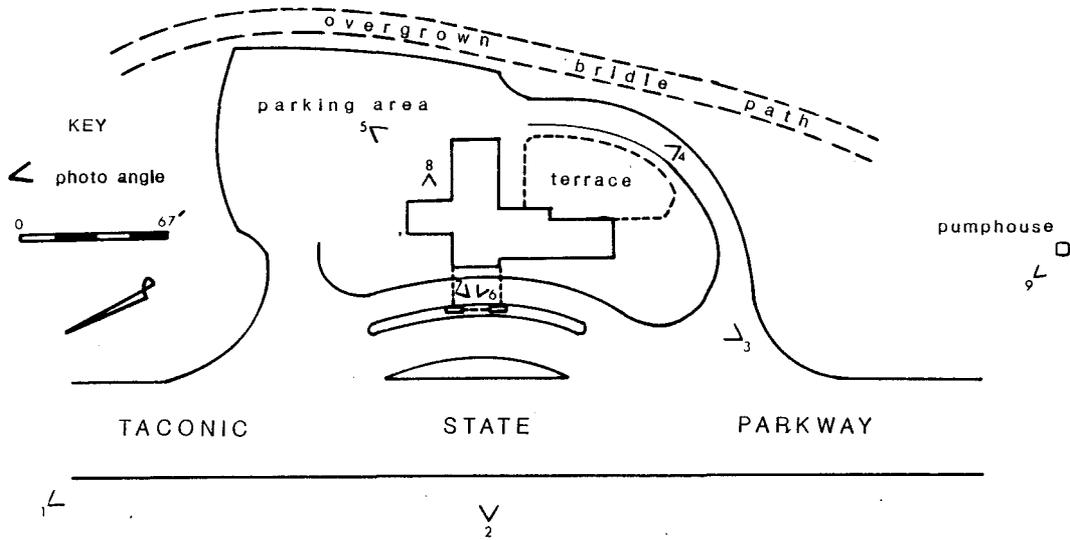
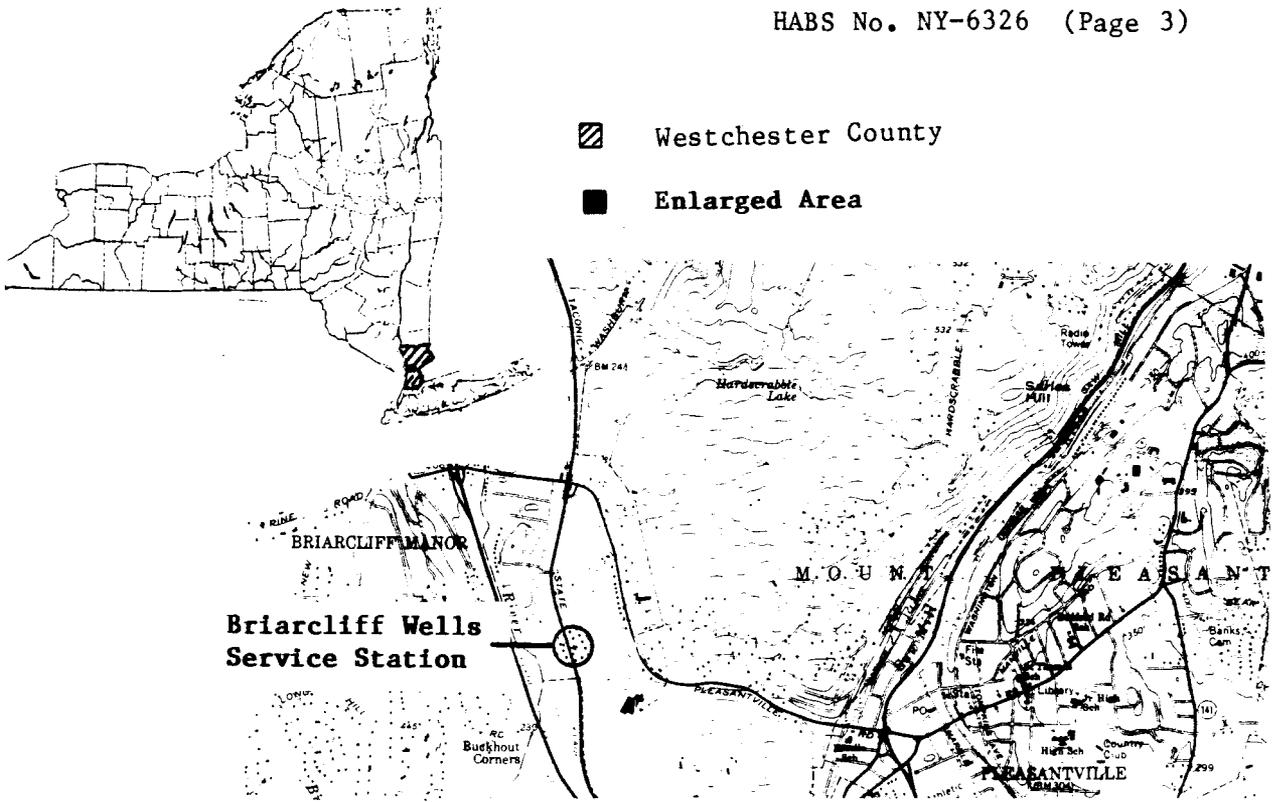
History: The Briarcliff Wells service station, designed by Perry M. Duncan, was built by the Westchester County Park Commission in 1931. The station originally served the Bronx River Parkway extension, completed north to Putnam County in 1931. The Bronx River extension, which provided a direct route from New York City to the Bear Mountain bridge over the Hudson River, came under the jurisdiction of the Taconic State Parkway Commission in 1941. The Briarcliff station was the only service facility

built on the Bronx River extension, its site expanded in 1937 to include an auxilliary station for southbound traffic. The original building was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. It is owned by the New York State Department of Transportation. The building was damaged by fire in its rear section in April, 1991, and presently stands vacant.

Sources: Final Report of the Bronx Parkway Commission, 1925 (NYS Library, Albany). Griffin, Ernest Freeland (ed.), Westchester County and Its People, volume II. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Incorporated, 1946 (NYS Library, Albany). New York State Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Survey Report for PIN 8126.15.101, 1985 (NYS DOT, Region 8 office). Taconic State Parkway highway plans (NYS Department of Transportation Region 8 archives, Poughkeepsie, NY).

Historian: Mark S. LoRusso
Cultural Resources Survey Program
NYS Education Department, Albany, NY.
April 16, 1991

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LOCATIONAL/SITE MAP OF BRIARCLIFF WELLS SERVICE STATION