

HUNT COUNTRY STORE
Albemarle County Country Stores Survey
Intersection of Free Union Road & Garth Road
Charlottesville vicinity
Albemarle County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-1380

HABS

VA-1380

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HUNT COUNTRY STORE

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Location: At the intersection of Garth Road and Free Union Road, Albemarle County, Virginia.

The Hunt Country Store is located on Garth Road in Albemarle County, Virginia. It sits on the northeast corner of the intersection of Garth Road and Free Union Road. Neighboring the building are small, single-family residences to the north and east of the building and several large work sheds. The approach to the store is either by an asphalt driveway that connects Garth Road to Free Union Road, or on foot by a concrete staircase that rises up 10' from Garth Road and leads directly to the store entrance.

Present Use: Convenience Store and Gas Station

Architectural Description:

The overall part of the building can be described as having four distinct parts. These parts include the overhang, the main building, the office wing and the freezer room. All of these parts are connected to the main store building. Based on its similarities to other datable structures, the store was likely constructed in the 1930s or 1940s.

The overhang is the most visible part of the store. It extends almost 30' from the main building and fronts on Garth Road. The overhang has beams that run around the underneath perimeter and these beams connect to four wood posts that support the front portion of the overhang. The wall of the main building supports the northernmost portion of the overhang. The gas tanks are located underneath this overhang structure; two rows of cars can fit between the posts. The overhang has a single pitched roof with no ornamentation.

On the southern facade of the overhang there is a grill, placed toward the top, to allow for ventilation in the interstitial space under the gable roof. Below the grill hangs the Hunt Country Store sign that extends out from the facade. The materials used on the overhang include wood for the posts, beams, eaves, and deck, and asphalt shingles for the roof and stucco for the front facade. The paint colors are yellow for the stucco and green for the wood.

The main building houses the convenience store and deli counter. The main

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building's footprint is a long rectangle with the short end attaching to the overhang on the southern side. The southern facade is only 21' wide with a central door flanked by two large sash windows. The facade is stuccoed and painted yellow and the trim around the windows and door is made of wood and painted green. The door is 7' tall and 3' wide with a small window above and a 4" step leading into the building.

The roof of the main building is very unique. It is constructed of the same material as the overhang although it is not a simple gable roof. The roof to the main building is a Jerkin head roof or clipped gable roof. This is similar to a gable roof except that the top portion of the gable is clipped off. This happens on both the southern and northern ends of the building.

On the interior of the main building, much of the original character is covered up by modern renovations. There is a vinyl checked floor throughout and the walls are painted white with beams 4' on center along the walls and ceiling which were added in Period Two. Also from the second period of construction are the built-in shelves that extend from beam to beam as well as freestanding shelves and modern furniture throughout.

Besides the two windows on the southern facade there is only one other visible window. It is on the east side toward the back of the main building. The dimensions of this window are equal to those of the front window. Extending underneath the window is a long patch of Portland cement instead of the yellow-painted stucco seen elsewhere. This suggests that the window may have originally been a door and served as a second entrance to the main building.

Several other windows in the main building have been covered up over the years. The window on the west facade toward the front of the main building is still visible from the outside. However on the interior of the building, there is no trace of the window because it has been covered up by the Period Two walls and shelving. On the rear facade there are two other windows that have also been covered up. These windows have been plastered and painted over in the interior, and stuccoed over on the exterior. The only sign of their existence is an indentation in the wall fabric around what would be the perimeter of the windows; this indentation is found on both the interior and exterior of the building. These windows are of the same dimensions as the other windows on the front facade.

Another Period Two addition to the structure is the freezer room. This rectangular room connects to the back of the west facade of the main building, and is accessible from the interior through a large heavy door. Four large, modern freestanding freezers sit inside the freezer room and have accessible doors from inside the main building. The freezer building is used for storage and has shelves throughout. The exterior sheathing is corrugated metal with a flat roof, with no ornamentation or perforations.

The office wing connects awkwardly to the main building, three steps up from the original portion of the structure. The roof is separate from the main building as well. The overhang over the porch does not line up with the office fenestration, hitting the center of the window rather than the edge. Inside, the office walls are sheathed with wood paneling. A chimneystack rises above the office roof, but no fireplace is visible inside.

The porch of the office wing is not accessible from the interior of the building. On the north and east sides of the porch, there are indentations on the stucco of the two windows now covered up. These windows are not visible from the inside. The dimensions of the window openings match those in the rest of the building.

Historian(s): Talia Lanyi, May 2003.

Project Information: The documentation of the Hunt Country Store 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 was part of the Albemarle County Country Stores Survey conducted in 2003.

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Fig. 1 East Elevation



Fig. 2 South Elevation, showing overhang (photo by Talia Lanyi)



Fig. 3 Closer view



Fig. 4 View of porch to office wing (photo by Talia Lanyi)

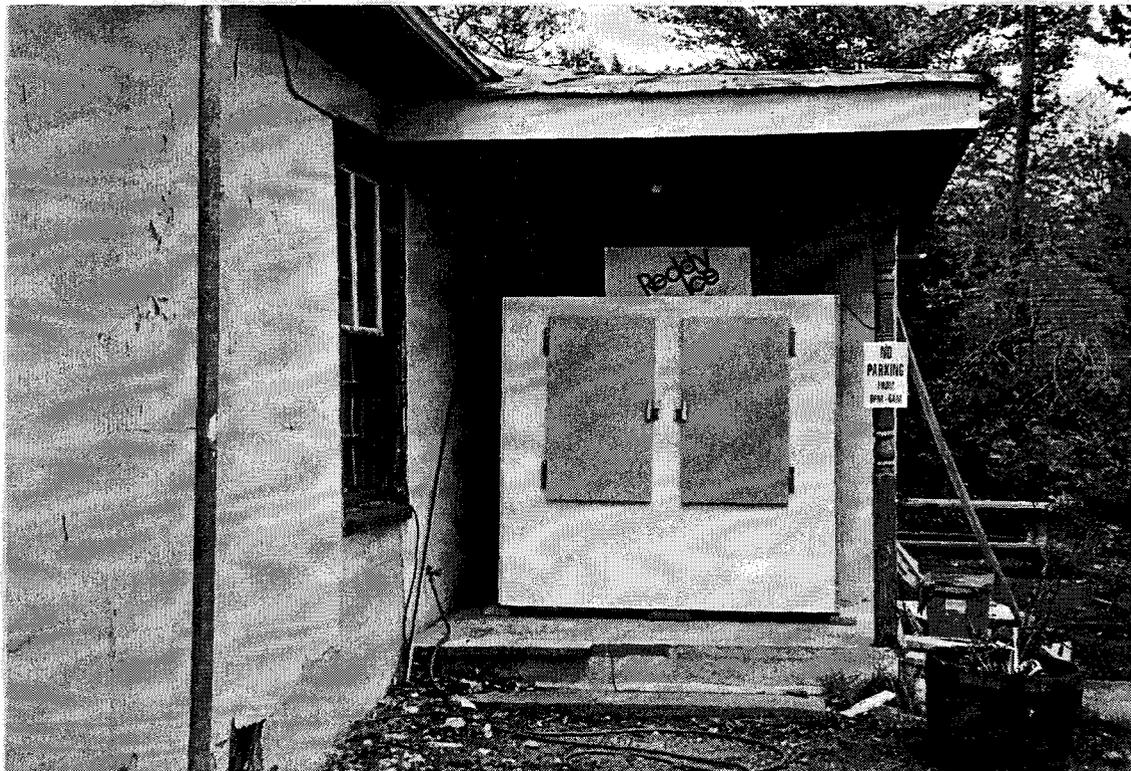


Fig. 5 Field drawings of Store – in plan as well as east & south elevations. (Drawings by Talia Lanyi)

