

Sause's Service Station and House
HO-888
8636 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City
Howard County
ca. 1950
Private

Sause's Service Station and House (ca. 1950) is located on Route 40, just west of the confluence of Routes 29 and 40 in Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland. There are three buildings on the .7-acre property: the service station, house, and garage. The service station is set along the road and the house and garage are located behind. The property is now located between a new Honda dealership, which uses the open space for automobile storage and display, and a ca. 1950s Cape Cod dwelling, now used by a driving school.

Sause's is associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County history. The construction of Route 40 through Howard County in the mid-20th c. marks the beginning of the county's transition from rural to suburban. The building complex was constructed in ca. 1950. Service stations such as Sause's, which provided gasoline and food for travelers and welding and auto repairs for the neighboring community, were historically found at regular intervals along highways. Sause's is now one of the few remaining World War II era road-related resources along Route 40 in Howard County.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-888

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Sause's Service Station and House

other n/a

2. Location

street and number 8636 Baltimore National Pike ___ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City ___ vicinity

county Howard

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

name Sause Center LLC

street and number 8608 Smith Avenue telephone n/a

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21043

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Land Record liber 4378 folio 107

city, town Columbia tax map 24 tax parcel 50 tax ID number 1402241692

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
___ district	___ public	___ agriculture	Contributing
X building(s)	X private	___ landscape	Noncontributing
___ structure	___ both	X commerce/trade	Contributing <u>3</u>
___ site		___ recreation/culture	Noncontributing <u>0</u>
___ object		___ defense	Contributing <u>0</u>
		___ domestic	Noncontributing <u>0</u>
		___ education	Contributing <u>0</u>
		___ funerary	Noncontributing <u>0</u>
		___ government	Contributing <u>3</u>
		___ health care	Noncontributing <u>0</u>
		___ industry	Contributing <u>0</u>
		___ unknown	Noncontributing <u>0</u>
		___ vacant/not in use	Contributing <u>0</u>
		___ other:	Noncontributing <u>0</u>
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>0</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-888

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

Sause's Service Station and House (8636 Baltimore National Pike) was surveyed from the public way because the owner did not grant permission to survey the property. This should provide enough information for general inclusion in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. However, additional documentation should be taken if the property is going to be developed or the house is going to be demolished.

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Service station

The service station is the largest building on the property. The stuccoed concrete service station building is composed of the original 1-story structure and a 2-story addition. The primary façade of the service station fronts Route 40 and faces south. A deep overhanging metal canopy set on slender metal posts runs along the entire south façade. The 1st story of the original structure and addition display large openings, now covered with plywood, at regular intervals. The 2nd story of the addition has two large punched window openings, which hold steel industrial sash, covered with metal awnings.

The building has a clipped southeast corner capped by a rounded parapet – a loosely mission detail that gives the building its only glance towards a stylistic feature. The east (side) façade of the building is buttressed with regularly placed CMU piers. A door opening is located in the 2nd bay and is topped by a sign that reads "Sause's Center". A vehicular entry bay is located in the 3rd bay. A door opening is located in the 4th bay. Openings are infilled and covered by metal awnings.

The north and west facades are not visible from the public way.

House

The tiny house is set back on the lot and located northeast of the service station. The 1-story, 2-bay dwelling is sheathed in wood board and batten siding painted red with white battens. The side-gable roof is sheathed in asphalt roofing and the windows and doors are covered with plywood. The primary façade of the house faces south. The entry door is located in a gable roofed entry bay that projects from the west façade of the house. The south façade of the main section of the house has two picture windows, one which probably lit the kitchen and the other the living room.

Garage

The historic photo of the site shows a one-car automobile garage, for personal car storage, located north of the service station. This building is not visible from the public way. The **Sun** article about the property shows a picture of Shirley Sause Massey sitting on a porch attached to this building and refers to it as a guest house, so it has undoubtedly been altered over the years.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-888

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates ca. 1950 **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates ca. 1950

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.)

Sause's is associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County history. The construction of Route 40 through Howard County in the mid-20th c. marks the beginning of the county's transition from rural to suburban. The building complex was constructed in ca. 1950. Service stations such as Sause's, which provided gasoline and food for travelers and welding and auto repairs for the neighboring community, were historically found at regular intervals along highways. Sause's is now one of the few remaining World War II era road-related resources that remain on Route 40 in Howard County.

Owners and residents

The Baltimore Sun ran an article when Shirley Sause Massey sold the property in the 1990s, which gives a clear image of the era in which they were built and common county attitudes about roadside and recent buildings:

The small red-and-white candy-striped cottage on U.S. 40 in Ellicott City where Shirley Sause Massey and Pretty Boy, her spotted pony, once lived isn't long for this world, she expects.

One of the last remnants of Maryland's mom and pop roadside commercial era on that stretch of highway, her old family homestead is up for lease and will likely be redeveloped – leveled and replaced – to fit the retail landscape near Rogers Avenue, she said.

"The buildings are 50 years old. They were never built with the idea of standing from posterity. The little house that everyone thinks is so cute was only supposed to be temporary," she said.

Still, Massey, 61, has wistful memories of her youth there, where traffic was once so light there that her wily Chincoteague pony could occasionally get loose at night and graze on the U.S. 40 median without being hit, before even a traffic signal was installed at Rogers Avenue.

Her mom and pop were Thelma and Alfred Sause, who moved to Ellicott City during World War II. Later Alfred Sause left a welding job at a Baltimore shipyard to open his small shop repairing farm equipment.

In 1947, they bought the nearly 1-acre lot on the highway. Three years later they built their small home, with a combination welding shop/gas station in front. Shirley, age 10, would watch for gasoline customers on summer days and run to fetch a parent when one pulled in.

"My father loved his little house, and so did my mother," said Massey, looking at old photos. In those days, Thelma Sause fed the occasional stranded traveler while her husband welded a part back on a trailer. "He was a good Samaritan by the roadside," Massey said.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-888

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Over the years, the Sause's raised show dogs, put the distinctive red-and-white shingles and enlarged the shop building, but they never moved from the small, four-room house where Shirley's younger brother slept in his parents' room until she got married and moved out at age 19.

Though eastern Howard County has grown nearly beyond recognition since then, there are others with warm memories of the Sause property.

"I hate to see it go," said County Executive James N. Robey, who as a county police officer spent many pleasant moments in George's, a sandwich shop that occupied part of the site.

"There are certain little things that you remember about Howard County that hold a fond place," the county native said.

Now, the future is plain to see on every side of the property.

Next to the sturdy green wood fence her father built, a Honda dealer's brightly illuminated cars are parked. A Rite-Aid pharmacy nears completion across the highway, while new townhouses peek over the western horizon.

Soon, they'll be joined by a super-sized Metro Food Market on the grassy field in back of the Sause family's plot. A stone's throw down U.S. 40, a mega-Super Fresh recently opened near an even larger Wal-Mart.

Compared to the newer, corporately owned businesses, passed by an average of 48,000 vehicles a day in 1997, the Sause family compound seems to be from another world.

"My mother would sit on a stool in the kitchen and look out the window. She never tired of seeing life on the highway," Massey recalled. Thelma Sause handled the books and did the telephone work. The gas station portion of the building was leased on a handshake to another operator, and other businesses – a beauty parlor, sandwich shop, dry cleaners – came and went after the building was expanded.

"They really didn't expect to live out their lives there," she said about her parents' plans to build a larger home elsewhere, but they did. In the end, Alfred Sause stayed after his wife died, working at his craft until he died in 1992 at age 81, Massey said. Since then the house and commercial building – now a motorcycle shop – have been rented. Massey lives nearby.

"I hope that whatever dreams by parents had for the property will be realized in my children's generation," she said, explaining that her three grown children own the land and stand to profit from its redevelopment.

Although her father's commercial vision is coming true, he had become wedded to his way of life along U.S. 40, she said.

"He was welding the day before he died," She said, noting that when he began spending winter months in Florida, he worked for free in a welding shop there because he was bored.

"He worked hard all his life. He didn't know any other way to live."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-888

Carson, Larry, "Cottage facing future of U.S. 40," **The Sun (Baltimore)**, January 31, 1999: 1B, 15B.
Howard County Land Records, Dorsey Building, Columbia. Liber 4378, folio 107 (1998) and Liber 197, folio 511 (1947).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .696 acres
Acreage of historical setting approx. 1 acre
Quadrangle name Ellicott City Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of Sause's corresponds to Howard County Map 24, Grid 6, Parcel 50, which is the buildings' current legal lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jennifer Goold, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	June 27, 2005
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

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



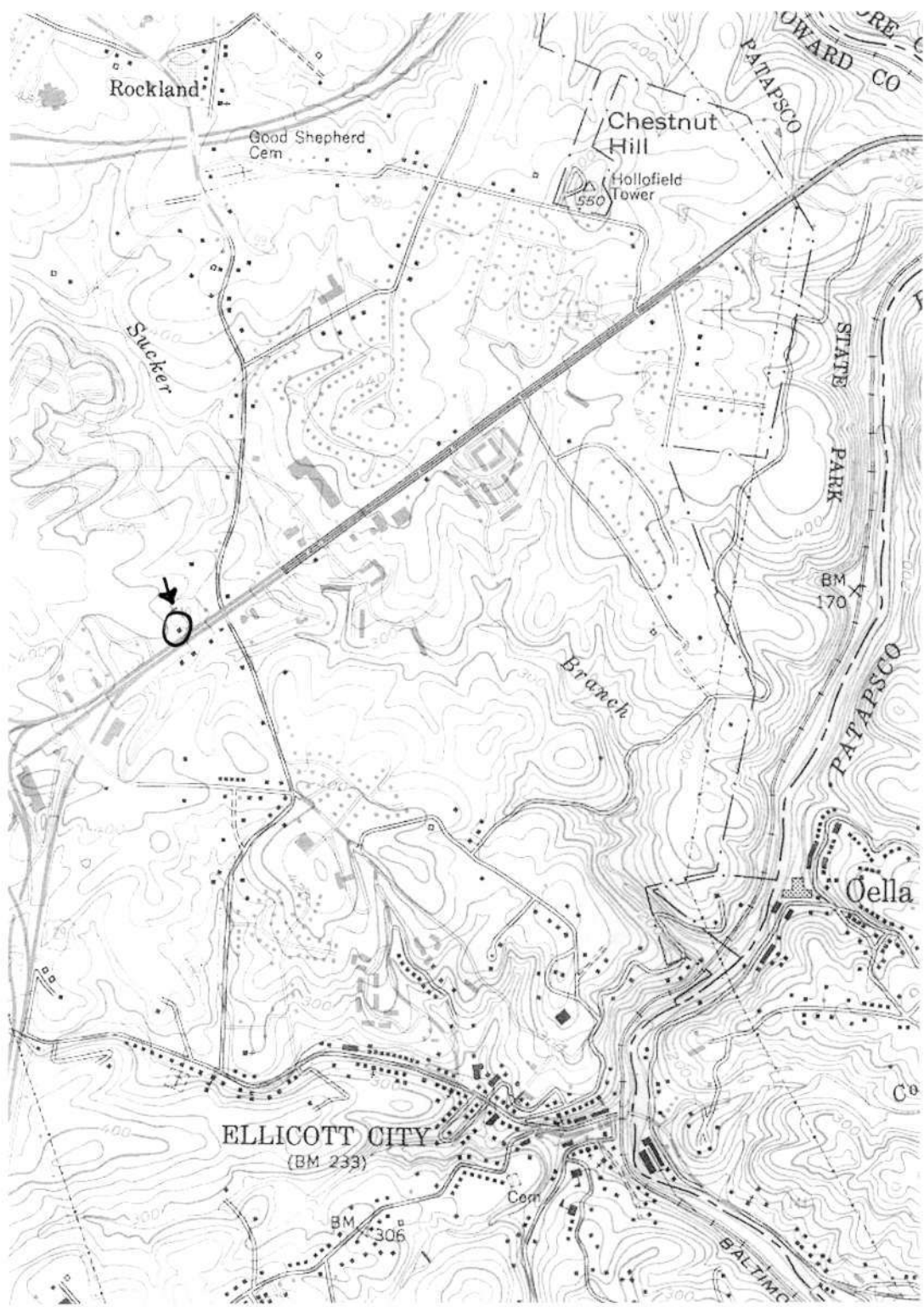
Sause's Service Center and House (HO-888)
8636 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City
Howard County
Site plan/aerial photo



Sause's Service Center and House (HO-888)
8636 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City
Howard County
Historic photo of the property



Sause's Service Center and House (HO-888)
8636 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City
Howard County
Historic photo of the Sauses



Sause's Service Center and House (HO-888)
8636 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City
Howard County
USGS Ellicott City



GARAGE 'N
CENTER

437

HO-888

Savse's Service Station and House

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

09/05

MDSHPO

View NW. Shows buildings in setting

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