



# Archival Documentation Package

Capital City Conoco / Dura Tune Service Station  
3810 North Interstate Highway 35  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

October 2024

## Background

This report provides archival documentation of the Dura-Tune service station (originally Capital City Conoco), located at 3810 North Interstate Highway (I-) 35, in Austin, Travis County, Texas. The documentation has been completed as mitigation for the building's removal as part of the I-35 Capital Express Central project.

## Contents

This documentation package contains:

- Building history, contextual background, statement of significance for the property, and survey forms, taken from the reconnaissance-level Historic Resources Survey Report for the I-35 Capital Express Central project, completed in September 2022 as part of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Exterior photographs of the Dura Tune service station, with accompanying photo log and property map with photo key. Exterior photographs were taken in January 2022 as part of the reconnaissance-level historic resources survey.
- Property location map, showing National Register of Historic Places-eligible boundary of the property.

**Dura Tune Service Station:**

**Reconnaissance-Level Text  
(September 2022, updated July  
2024)**

### **3810 North Interstate Highway (I-)35 (Dura Tune service station)**

This property is comprised of one legal parcel (TCAD parcel 211860), a 0.27-acre parcel that contains the former Dura Tune service station and its associated canopies.

#### *Description*

The Dura Tune service station is a one-story, rectangular-plan gas station and garage with dual canopies. It has a concrete slab foundation and flat roof. The walls are concrete block and stucco. Two single, metal-frame, glass doors with transom lights face the I-35 frontage road to the east and 38½ Street to the north. These facades have large, metal-frame, fixed windows. There are three metal multi-light overhead bay doors on the north facade. All windows and doors appear historic age. Two canopies on the north and east sides sit slightly above the station roofline. The canopies appear historic age, but the supports have been encapsulated with non-historic-age metal cladding.

#### *Background*

Now vacant, the Dura Tune property was originally constructed as a Conoco service station in 1964, two years after the Interregional Highway was improved and designated as I-35 in the project area. It opened as Capital City Conoco in 1966 and operated as a Conoco until 1974.<sup>1</sup> The property remained vacant until 1980, when it reopened as an auto repair shop, operating under several variations of the Dynatune/Duratune/Dura Tune name until 2021. The building exhibits most of the character-defining features for 1950-1970 Conoco stations, as identified by TxDOT's *Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas (Field Guide)*.<sup>2</sup> These include:

- Two-part flat roof with a higher roof over the service wing and lower roof over the office
- Roof with wide eaves
- Concrete block and brick exterior finish
- Semi-detached canopy slightly elevated above the roofline of the building
- Service bays with large, glazed doors
- Single-door entrance with transom or panel
- Brick wall that extends off the corner of the building, adjacent to service bay

---

<sup>1</sup> "Thanksgiving Holiday Special," *The Austin Statesman*, November 23, 1966, 13.

<sup>2</sup> Dwayne Jones, David W. Moore, and Shonda Mace, *A Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas* (Texas Department of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division, Historical Studies Branch, 2016).

- Horizontal banding around the roofline above the office and service bays
- Modern or International style

The building also has several non-standard features, including dual canopies (both original) and display windows without transoms. Alterations include the removal of the original fuel pumps, paint applied to lower portions of display windows, and replacement of the original Conoco signage. Also of note is the apparent encapsulation of the original round canopy supports with square hollow columns. Visible denting of the columns indicates they are hollow cosmetic applications, likely covering the original metal supports. Figures 1 through 4 demonstrate comparisons between the property type's original features and those present on the current Dura Tune property, as well as alterations.



*Figure 1. Example of a 1950-1970 standard-design Conoco station (without canopy) showing character-defining features listed above, from TxDOT's A Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas.<sup>3</sup>*

---

<sup>3</sup> Jones, Moore, and Mace, *A Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas*.



Figure 2. Example of a 1950-1970 standard-design Conoco station (with canopy) showing character-defining features listed above, from TxDOT's Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas.<sup>4</sup>



Figure 3. Dura Tune service station showing the character-defining features of the standard Conoco design and alterations as described above, view facing west-southwest, January 2022.

---

<sup>4</sup> Jones, Moore, and Mace, *A Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas*.





Figure 4. Dura Tune service station showing the character-defining features of the standard Conoco design and alterations as described above, view facing south-southwest, January 2022.

## Significance

### Criterion A

The Interregional Highway was completed through the area by 1954, resulting in a boom of commercial development that continued with the highway's expansion and designation as I-35 between 1959 and 1962. Residential areas along the route were redeveloped as commercial, including numerous transportation-related businesses such as gas stations, service stations, motels, and drive-in restaurants. Registration requirements outlined in the *Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas* state that a gas station may be eligible under Criterion A in the area of Transportation if it shows a "clear association with the development of a road or highway." Given its completion within a few years of the Interstate Highway expansion, there is a clear connection between the development of I-35 and the construction of this service station. Therefore, the Dura Tune service station property possesses significance under Criterion A in the area of Transportation.

### Criterion B

Reconnaissance-level research did not identify historically significant persons that would meet the standards for listing in the NRHP; therefore, the Dura Tune service station property does not possess significance under Criterion B.

### Criterion C

The *Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas* identifies two primary considerations for eligibility under Criterion C for Architecture. The first is that the building represents a recognizable example of the design adopted by a particular oil company. This property retains most of its original distinctive features, making it recognizable as a 1950-1970 Conoco station. The second requirement for eligibility is that the design includes stylistic features that set it apart from the simple "oblong box" typified by gas stations of the postwar period. While the Conoco design conforms with the typical postwar oblong box form, it displays several

distinctive stylistic elements that set it apart from simpler gas stations of the period. These include the raised canopy, glazed garage doors, multi-level roof, projecting wall at the service bay, and metal banding around the eave line. For these reasons, the Dura Tune service station property possesses significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of a 1960s Conoco station.

### *Integrity*

The *Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas* follows a three-tiered system for evaluating integrity. Most of the alterations to the Dura Tune property are classified as Tier 1 (minimal), which are “unlikely to affect eligibility.” However, the replacement of canopy columns is considered a Tier 2 (moderate) factor, which “may affect eligibility.” As noted above, field observations indicate that the original canopy supports may be intact within hollow metal covers. According to the field guide, gas stations with a few Tier 2 alterations may still retain overall integrity and convey significance. Despite minor alterations, the Dura Tune property retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. It is clearly identifiable as a 1950-1970-era Conoco service station and it communicates its direct association with the development of I-35 in the early 1960s.

### *NRHP Eligibility and Boundaries*

The Dura Tune service station property at 3810 North I-35 is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of Transportation and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The NRHP boundary includes the entire legal parcel (TCAD parcel 211860), which contains the building, canopies, and associated parking areas.



Survey Date:	January 11, 2022
Resource No.	200
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, Texas. I-35 from US 290 E to US 290 W/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	I-35 Capital Express Central Reconnaissance Survey, 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	3810 North Interstate Highway 35, 30.29489/-97.72020
Function/Sub-function:	COMMERCE/TRADE/Business (now VACANT/Not in Use)
Construction Date:	1964
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility:	Eligible (Criterion A: Transportation; Criterion C: Architecture)
Description/Comments:	One-story, rectangular-plan, former gas station and garage. Concrete slab foundation. Flat roof. Concrete block and stucco cladding. Metal framed glass door; fixed metal windows. Metal with multi-light overhead bay doors. Two associated canopies are north and east of Resource 200; canopy columns encapsulated with new material. Historic-age sign is south of Resource 200. Resource 200 clearly demonstrates a clear association with the development of Interstate Highway 35, thus is recommended eligible under Criterion A, Transportation. It is also recommended eligible under Criterion C, Architecture, as an excellent example of a 1950-1970 Conoco Station. Resource 200 retains all aspects of integrity as noted below and continues to convey its significance under Criterion C. It does not possess historical significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B.
Integrity Considerations:	Alterations are limited to altered canopy posts. Despite these limited alterations, Resource 200 retains all aspects of integrity.



*View facing southwest.*

Survey Date:	January 11, 2022
Resource No.	200
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, Texas. I-35 from US 290 E to US 290 W/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	I-35 Capital Express Central Reconnaissance Survey, 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	3810 North Interstate Highway 35, 30.29489/-97.72020
Function/Sub-function:	COMMERCE/TRADE/Business (now VACANT/Not in Use)
Construction Date:	1964
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility:	Eligible (Criterion A: Transportation; Criterion C: Architecture)
Description/Comments:	One-story, rectangular-plan, former gas station and garage. Concrete slab foundation. Flat roof. Concrete block and stucco cladding. Metal framed glass door; fixed metal windows. Metal with multi-light overhead bay doors. Two associated canopies are north and east of Resource 200; canopy columns encapsulated with new material. Historic-age sign is south of Resource 200. Resource 200 clearly demonstrates a clear association with the development of Interstate Highway 35, thus is recommended eligible under Criterion A, Transportation. It is also recommended eligible under Criterion C, Architecture, as an excellent example of a 1950-1970 Conoco Station. Resource 200 retains all aspects of integrity as noted below and continues to convey its significance under Criterion C. It does not possess historical significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B.
Integrity Considerations:	Alterations are limited to altered canopy posts. Despite these limited alterations, Resource 200 retains all aspects of integrity.



*View facing west. Showing relationship of building (rear) to historic-age sign (front).*

Survey Date:	January 11, 2022
Resource No.	200
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, Texas. I-35 from US 290 E to US 290 W/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	I-35 Capital Express Central Reconnaissance Survey, 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	3810 North Interstate Highway 35, 30.29489/-97.72020
Function/Sub-function:	COMMERCE/TRADE/Business (now VACANT/Not in Use)
Construction Date:	1964
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility:	Eligible (Criterion A: Transportation; Criterion C: Architecture)
Description/Comments:	One-story, rectangular-plan, former gas station and garage. Concrete slab foundation. Flat roof. Concrete block and stucco cladding. Metal framed glass door; fixed metal windows. Metal with multi-light overhead bay doors. Two associated canopies are north and east of Resource 200; canopy columns encapsulated with new material. Historic-age sign is south of Resource 200. Resource 200 clearly demonstrates a clear association with the development of Interstate Highway 35, thus is recommended eligible under Criterion A, Transportation. It is also recommended eligible under Criterion C, Architecture, as an excellent example of a 1950-1970 Conoco Station. Resource 200 retains all aspects of integrity as noted below and continues to convey its significance under Criterion C. It does not possess historical significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B.
Integrity Considerations:	Alterations are limited to altered canopy posts. Despite these limited alterations, Resource 200 retains all aspects of integrity.



*View facing north.*




**Dura Tune Service Station:**

**Property Location Map**

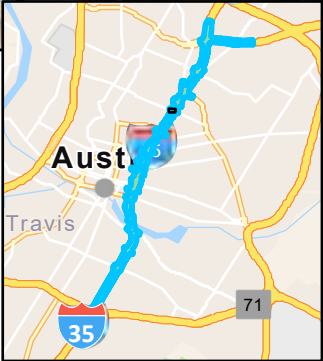




**NRHP Boundary Map**  
**I-35 Capital Express Central**  
**CSJ: 0015-13-388**

-  NRHP Boundary
-  Parcel Boundary (Travis CAD)
-  Existing ROW (TxDOT)

Resource Name: *Dura Tune Service Station*







**Dura Tune Service Station:**

**Exterior Photographs with Key  
Map and Photo Log (January  
2022)**



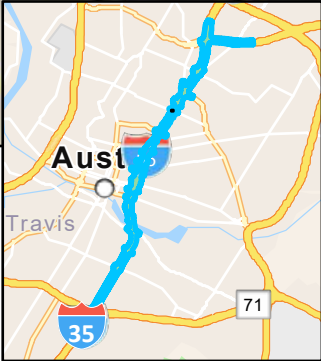



**Photo Key Map**  
**I-35 Capital Express Central**  
**CSJ: 0015-13-388**

-  Parcel Boundary (Travis CAD)
-  Existing ROW (TxDOT)

Resource Name: *Dura Tune Service Station*

0 25 50 Feet



**DURA TUNE SERVICE STATION**

3810 North I-35

Austin, Travis County, Texas

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographers: Mackenzie Machuga and Lauren Kelly, Mead & Hunt, Inc., January 11, 2022

1. EAST OBLIQUE, FACING WEST [IMG\_0501]
2. EAST OBLIQUE, FACING WEST [IMG\_0500]
3. EAST OBLIQUE, FACING WEST [IMG\_0510]
4. NORTHEAST ELEVATION, FACING SOUTHWEST [IMG\_0505]
5. NORTHEAST ELEVATION, FACING SOUTHWEST [IMG\_0508]
6. OBLIQUE OF BUILDING, FACING WEST/NORTHWEST [IMG\_0512]
7. OBLIQUE OF SOUTHEAST SIDE OF BUILDING, FACING SOUTH/SOUTHWEST [IMG\_0514]
8. OBLIQUE OF NORTHEAST SIDE OF BUILDING, FACING WEST [IMG\_0513]
9. VEHICLE BAYS ON WEST PORTION OF NORTHEAST SIDE OF BUILDING, FACING WEST  
[IMG\_0515]
10. OBLIQUE OF NORTHWEST SIDE OF BUILDING, FACING SOUTH [IMG\_0516]
11. OBLIQUE OF NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST SIDES OF BUILDING, FACING  
EAST/NORTHEAST [IMG\_0519]
12. SOUTHEAST CANOPY, FACING NORTH [IMG\_0520]
13. OBLIQUE OF SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST SIDES OF BUILDING, FACING NORTH  
[IMG\_0521]
14. FREE STANDING SIGN AT NORTHEAST CORNER OF PROPERTY, FACING  
SOUTH/SOUTHEAST [IMG\_0507]









































