#253 Bethel Gas Station & Star Garage (Script by Joanna Grey Talbot)

Fill ‘er up! This beautiful 1925 Renaissance Revival style gas station at 104 Southeast First Avenue is one of a small number of relatively pristine service stations in our area from the time of early automobile travel. It gets its name from Bethel Honeycutt, the building’s owner in the 1970s. Originally built with red brick, it was painted white in the 1930s. In 1986, the gas station was relocated to what is now Bo Diddley Plaza and restored. Today it is home to the Steamers Downtown restaurant.

Across the street at 119 Southeast First Avenue, the Star Garage was originally used to house and sell mules and horses. At the Crawford and Davis Livery Stable, patrons could purchase horses, mules, carriages and wagons or stable their horses. The small windows that provided light for individual horse stalls can still be seen along the east and west walls, which are the original walls from 1903.

In 1917, the building became the Star Garage. Instead of horses and mules, customers could buy a Studebaker or Cadillac. The building was burned in 1931 and reopened by the Fowler Buick Company. Since then it has served as a Greyhound bus station, law offices, the State Attorney’s office and the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections. The Star Garage was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.