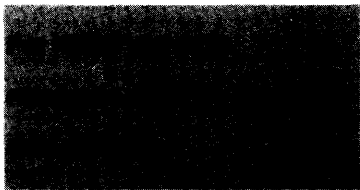


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Number 5 Fire Station

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 7 N. Lawrence Street N/A not for publication

city, town Mobile N/A vicinity of congressional district 01

state Alabama code 01 county Mobile code 097

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | N/A being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Derald and Lois Eastman

street & number 1455 Dauphin Street

city, town Mobile N/A vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mobile County Court House, Probate Division

street & number 109 Government Street

city, town Mobile state Alabama 36601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title HABS Part I ~~has this property been determined eligible?~~ yes no

date 11 photos (1934,1936); 2 sheets (1934) federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D.C.

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The #5 Fire Station is a two-story brick building of rectangular mass with Greek Revival influence in the details of the front elevation and on the interior. The three bay first story of the facade is formed by two sturdy Doric columns in antis that support the overhanging second story. The two north bays of the recessed first story have been infilled with modern commercial show windows. On the second story, Doric pilasters frame the bays and give visual support to the typical classical entablature above, with the architrave and frieze separated by a taenia molding. The pediment of the gable roof is pierced by diamond shaped panel that originally was centered by a large #5. The stuccoed white Greek Revival detailing makes a strong contrast with the deep red of the brick wall. The window lintels, also accented in white, repeat the horizontal lines of the vertical-horizontal rhythm set up by the design. Before its removal, the wrought iron balcony extended the width of the building, and was supported on slender scroll shaped iron brackets. At the second story level the three double sash windows, 6/6 lights, once opened onto the balcony through the slide-by lower sash and jib doors. The walls on the north, south and west are of simple construction with seven rows of stretchers between headers.

In addition to the main building there is a stuccoed one story attached dependency that once served as a stable, machine shop and lately as a storage facility.

The #5 Fire Station functioned as an active fire house until 1925 when it was sold. Since that time the building has passed through several commercial uses causing a fair amount of changes. It has served as a storage for a telephone and telegraph company, for a furniture store and most recently as a roofing supply company. However, some of the original interior fabric has remained. Still intact are the Greek Key style eared architraves of the door and window framing on the second floor (slightly pedimented lintels and battered jambs) and the stairway, which is a straight run between first and second floor, still has the original turned balusters, rounded handrail and newel post.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1851 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecture:

Architecturally the Fire House Company #5 is an excellent example of a functional building that has been designed in the Greek Revival style. The basic classic division of the first story is a Doric distyle-in-antis plan derived from buildings such as the little Treasury of the Athenians in Delphi. The second story maintains the 3 bay division by the use of Doric pilasters. The excellent proportions, the simplicity of the moldings, the classic rhythm of the design and the interior Greek Key door framing all give it distinction. Local vernacular characteristics were added by the floor length double sash 6/9 windows of the second story that once opened out on the over-the-sidewalk wrought iron balcony that has been removed. The building is typical of all of the nineteenth century volunteer fire company structures in that it is of brick with a two story elevation. The first story housed the fire fighting equipment; the second story served as a recreation area where men on duty could relax while awaiting a call and where social functions could be held. Attached on one side was a one story stable to house the horses needed to pull the equipment. This appendage is still in place on the south side of the fire house.

Integrity:

The basic fabric of Fire House Company #5 remains unchanged since the time of its construction. The original brickwork, the distyle-in-antis facade design and second story window configuration are intact. On the interior the large open space has been preserved with the original cast iron columns supporting three elliptical arches separating the front from rear portions of the first floor space. Also intact on the interior are the Greek Key window and door moldings in addition to the stairway with its rounded handrail, balusters and newel posts.

The modern showcase commercial windows in the two north bays of the first story and the removal of the wrought iron balcony that have occurred over time are reversible. With the aid of photo-documentation, these elements may be returned to their original condition. The stable appendage on the south side has also retained its basic integrity with only the door having been modified.

* * * * *

Historically, Fire House Company #5 takes its place among other volunteer fire companies who furnished fire protection to the city. In 1843 the Washington Company Number 8 was incorporated under State law and in 1851 it bought the lot on which this building was to be constructed. The fire company building was finished in 1851 at a cost of \$5,500. The company continued to serve the community until 1888 when it, along with others, was purchased by the municipal authorities at the time a city fire department was instituted. At that time, the Washington Company #8 was renamed Fire House Company #5.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Nineteenth Century Mobile Architecture; City Planning Commission, 1974; Deeds; Tax Assessments; 1878 City Atlas; Sanborn Maps; Mobile Fire & Police Dept., April, 1902, Press of Commercial Ptg. Co.; HABS survey.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property (.14 ac.) less than one

Quadrangle name Mobile

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

B

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

C

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

D

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

E

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

F

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

G

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

H

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification The northeast corner of lot commencing 111' south from the southwest corner of Lawrence & St. Francis & extending south 61' on the west side of Lawrence w/ the southeast corner of the lot being 179' north of the northwest corner of Lawrence & Dauphin, lot having depth of 101' w/ north & south lines parallel.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth B. Gould, Architectural Historian

organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date August 4, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 1827 telephone (205)438-7133

city or town Mobile state Alabama 36633

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/21/83

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

Entered
National

date 12/22/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

The #5 is one of five extant volunteer fire company buildings. All are still standing on their original sites with the exception of one station that was dismantled and re-located as the Phoenix Fire Museum in the Church Street East Historic District. The other four surviving stations are: Hose Company #5 at 7 N. Lawrence Street, the Creole Fire Station #1 at 13 N. Dearborn Street, the Hook and Ladder #1 at 216 S. Francis Street and the Franklin Engine Company #3 at 6 St. Joseph Street. Of these, the House Company #5 is the only Greek Revival style building. Despite its use as a warehouse for a number of years, it has not been substantially altered by modern commercial alterations.

The Volunteer Fire Companies had an important role to play in the history of Mobile from 1819 to 1888 at which time the city fire department was inaugurated. Citizens contributed their time and support for both fire protection and police patrol. With the residential and commercial areas largely located between Broad and the river, the port city was a small community in which all citizens had a responsibility for the general welfare. Each company took care of its own expenses and equipment, besides which each served a social outlet sponsoring various functions such as balls, etc. It was the fashionable thing to be a member of one of these fire fighting companies.

The volunteer fire companies were a collective effort--significant as a group. While each company would have its own elected officers, no individual can be singled out as being more important than the rest.

The volunteer fire halls formed a distinctive type of architecture. All were two stories and constructed of brick with attached stables of one story elevation. The first story of the fire house was used for the fire fighting equipment, with large double exit doors for the wagons and engines and a smaller door for human ingress and egress. A large hall at the second story was provided that could be used by the men while awaiting a call and also served for their social functions. This configuration is most evident in the Fire House Company #5 and in the Creole Station #1.

The Greek Revival Doric distyle-in-antis plan of the Fire House Company #5 relates to the second revival of the Greek tradition as it appeared in Mobile. The first of these revivals occurred during the 1830s and was applied primarily to large public buildings. The architects Gallier and Dakin were largely responsible for the introduction of this style into the city and designed monumental buildings such as Barton Academy which still stands on Government Street. During the 1850s the style spread to residential building, transforming an earlier type of simple cottage into classic villas. The revival during this period was largely the result of a popular movement that included vernacular variations, and was not the product of an architectural discipline.