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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ruston Central Fire Station

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 200 East Mississippi Avenue N/A  not for publication

city or town Ruston N/A  vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Lincoln code 061 zip code 71270

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker September 2, 1992  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Date  
 State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
 State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Nelou Byer Date of Action 10/8/92

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/fire station

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/fire station

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stucco

roof asphalt

other brick

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Ruston Central Fire Station, Lincoln Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 1

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The Ruston Central Fire Station stands on a corner at the edge of the community's central business district. The two story, stucco over poured concrete structure was erected in 1926. Although it has undergone some alterations, it retains its National Register eligibility.

The building presents a restrained appearance and does not reflect any particular style. Its exterior features of note are overhanging eaves, paired windows, and brick lintels and window sills. Pressed tin ceilings are the interior's only decorative element. These are found in the engine room, which fills the entire first floor, and in some of the upstairs office and dormitory spaces. The upstairs rooms open off a hallway.

The fire station was expanded in 1945 by the addition of a discrete one story side wing which is sensitive to the original design. It is built of the same material as the original fire station and also copies the original's window detailing. Other changes since construction include the replacement of the structure's folding accordion doors by modern electric doors and the addition of plywood paneling and dropped acoustic tile ceilings in some of the upstairs rooms. The interior modifications and the change in doors have not had a serious visual impact upon the building. The fire station would easily be recognized by anyone from the historic period. Because its construction represented the "coming of age" of the city's fire department and an important event in the community's history, the Ruston Central Fire Station is a prime candidate for National Register listing.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** N/A  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

**Period of Significance**

1926

**Significant Dates**

1926

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Ruston Central Fire Station  
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	5
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5	3	4	1	4	0
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3	5	9	8	9	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2 

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3 

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Zone Easting Northing

4 

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See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Please refer to sketch map.

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date June 1992

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Ruston

street & number P. O. Box 280 telephone 318-251-8621

city or town Ruston state Louisiana zip code 71273-0280

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ruston Central Fire Station, Lincoln Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

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The Ruston Central Fire Station is locally significant in the area of social history within the Lincoln Parish community of Ruston because the building represents an important event in the community's development. That event was the professionalization, or "coming of age," of the city's fire department.

Ruston was founded in 1883 when the Vicksburg, Shreveport, and Pacific Railroad came through Lincoln Parish. However, when town founder Robert E. Russ donated lots for a courthouse, school, cemetery, and three churches, he failed to make a similar donation for a fire department. As a result, the city's first piece of fire fighting equipment, a two-wheeled tank with a hand pump, was stored outside the mayor's office. When a fire occurred, this tank was pushed to the blaze by any manpower available. The Ruston Volunteer Fire Department was not established until 1897, when the community obtained running water. At this time the town bought a new horse-drawn hose and ladder wagon and built a fire station to house it. However, this station was little more than a stable to shelter the wagon and the two horses needed to pull it.

Ruston's fire department was motorized in 1915, but the town's first fire truck lacked the ability to pump water. This problem was corrected in 1924 by the purchase of an American-LaFrance pumper truck. Despite these improvements in fire protection, the fire department remained a volunteer organization until 1926. In that year the city ordered its second fire truck and replaced the small 1897 fire hall with a modern structure designed to house four vehicles. In addition to a large engine room, the new Central Fire Station also contained an office, kitchen, guest room, showers, and an eight bed dormitory. Thus, by providing a fire fighting headquarters which could be manned 24 hours a day, the new building made the founding of the city's first full time fire department possible. As the symbol of the department's "coming of age," the Ruston Central Fire Department is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Ruston Central Fire Station, Lincoln Parish, LA

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

A Historical and Pictorial Review of the Past 75 Years of the City of Ruston,  
1884-1959. Ruston: Leader Publishing Co., Inc., 1959.

"Brief History of the City of Ruston," typescript in National Register file.

"City of Ruston" page from 1931 Souvenir Programme of the Louisiana State  
Firemen's Association, copy in National Register file.

Site visit by National Register staff.

"Short History of the Ruston Fire Department," contained in a letter from Captain  
Donnie L. Watson to Donna Fricker, copy in National Register file.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

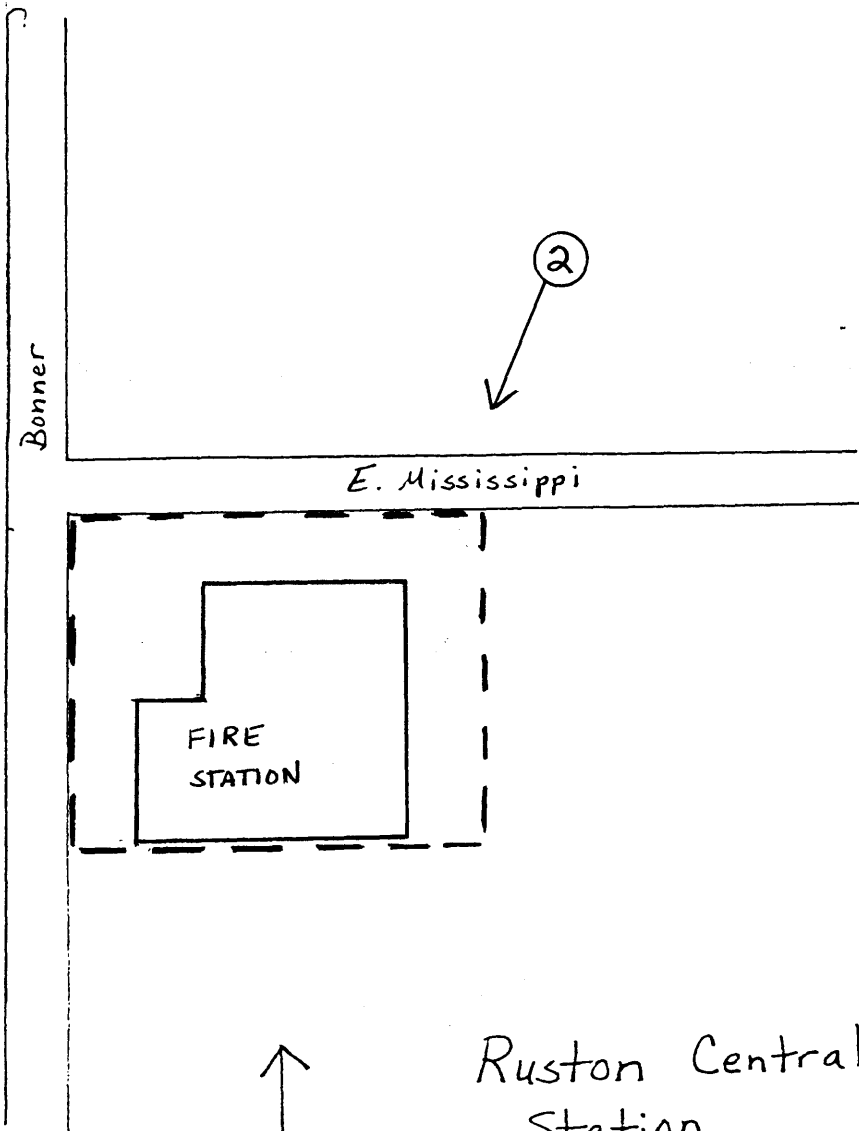
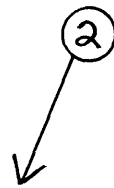
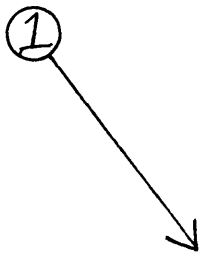
# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Ruston Central Fire Station, Lincoln Parish, LA  
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Boundaries were chosen to encompass the significant resource. They do not follow property lines because to have done so would have meant including a large municipally owned block with other buildings on it. The boundary line cuts close to the rear to exclude an adjacent non-historic building.





Ruston Central Fire  
Station  
Lincoln Parish, LA

1" = 40'

--- BOUNDARY