

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

APR 22 1991

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name South Highlands Fire Station other names/site number Fire Station No. 10

2. Location

street & number 763 Oneonta city, town Shreveport state Louisiana code LA county Caddo code 017 zip code 71106

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local (checked), public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0 buildings, sites, structures, objects. Total 1. Name of related multiple property listing: N/A. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. Date April 17, 1991. State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official. Date. State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register (checked), determined eligible for the National Register, determined not eligible for the National Register, removed from the National Register, other. Entered in the National Register. Signature of the Keeper. Date of Action 5/28/91

**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)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Other: German Medieval

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stucco

roof slate

other

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The South Highlands Fire Station (1929) stands on a busy corner within a Shreveport residential neighborhood. It is a two-story, stucco over brick structure which illustrates the influence of the early twentieth century eclectic movement on Shreveport's architecture. The direct inspiration for the building is the vernacular architecture of medieval Germany. Although the station has undergone some changes and additions, it retains its National Register eligibility.

Because of its corner location, the station has two significant elevations and is meant to be viewed from a three-quarter angle. Its massing is that of a rambling, picturesque medieval structure with an off-center tower and several prominent gables. The building's first floor contains a recreation room, kitchen, hose tower, and two engine rooms (one facing each of the streets which border the property). The second floor holds dormitory bedrooms and baths.

German medieval features found within the structure's design include:

- 1) the tall square hose tower, which has its own pyramidal roof,
- 2) the use of horizontal bands of decorative half-timbered panels beneath several windows, and
- 3) a very large, prominent, and steeply pitched roof. The roof is covered by multi-colored slate and is pierced by one dormer.

The station's other medieval characteristics include:

- 1) stuccoed walls which mimic the folk practice of whitewashing,
- 2) false half-timbering and curved corner braces found in several gables,
- 3) casement windows, and
- 4) the recreation room's pointed arch mantel, which is surmounted by a hood shaped flue.

Other features of interest in the building include one set of French doors, segmentally arched windows surrounded by brick quoins, a staircase whose

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

South Highlands Fire Station, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA

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balusters are made of decoratively cut boards, glazed bricks on one engine room interior wall, and an original brass fireman's pole.

Alterations to the building have been few. They include:

- 1) the conversion and expansion of space in one first floor corner to create the second engine room (to the right of the front gable). To accomplish this two changes were made. First, a window was replaced by a large door covered by a hooded roof. Second, a flat roofed addition was appended at the rear to provide extra space for a lengthy modern fire truck.
- 2) the addition of a storeroom and bath behind the new engine room, and
- 3) the installation of a dropped ceiling in the recreation room.

Although the creation of the corner engine room was a notable change, only one of the building's openings had to be modified to accommodate the alteration. In addition, the change was made with sensitivity for the building's original style. Furthermore, the fire station's distinctive massing and all of its decorative details remain intact. In truth, the structure truly looks as if it has just been transported to Shreveport from Germany's Black Forest region. As an unusual example of early twentieth century eclectic revival styling, the South Highlands Fire Station is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance  
1929

Significant Dates  
1929

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Architect: Henry Schwartz

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The South Highlands Fire Station is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is an important and unusual example of early twentieth century eclectic architecture in Shreveport.

Architectural eclecticism has its roots in the French Beaux Arts system. In the nineteenth century, students at the Ecole des Beaux Arts were taught to work in a variety of historical and sometimes romantic styles with a fair degree of accuracy. Quotation from well known monuments of the past in new designs was taken as a sign of cultivation rather than poverty of invention. This spirit of learnedly imitating the past came to America in the later nineteenth century in the form of academic schools of architecture, professional publications, and a more discriminating clientele. Increasingly, clients were demanding designs in this or that particular historical, picturesque, or romantic style.

The South Highlands Fire Station is conspicuous among Shreveport's vast collection of early twentieth century eclectic buildings because of its very unusual choice of inspiration. Although it is an evocative interpretation rather than an exact copy, it strongly reflects the influence of the German vernacular architecture of the Middle Ages. Virtually all other eclectic buildings in Shreveport feature some form of neo-classical, Gothic, Mission, "Tudor," or other more conventional styling. As far as the State Historic Preservation Office is aware, the South Highlands Fire Station is the only Shreveport building in the German Medieval style.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Site visit by National Register staff.

Historic Photographs of South Highlands Fire Station, LSU, Shreveport Archives.

Fricker, Donna. "Emulating the Past: Shreveport's Early Twentieth Century Architecture," Preservation in Print, September 1990, pp. 15-17.

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 15 429940 3591980  
Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 127, 128 and west 30 feet of Lot 129, Ormond Place Subdivision, City of Shreveport

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow property lines of the parcel of land occupied by the fire station.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff  
organization Division of Historic Preservation date February 1991  
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160  
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: City of Shreveport  
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