

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

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

For HCRS use only

received DEC 31 1980

date entered FEB 12 1981

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

**1. Name**

historic Scott Street Fire House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 418 Scott Street  not for publication

city, town Montgomery  vicinity of congressional district II

state Alabama code 01 county Montgomery code 001

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Randy Roark City of Montgomery

street & number 423-South-Hull-Street Box 111

city, town Montgomery  vicinity of state Alabama

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number 142 Washington Avenue

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970-present  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated in the midst of a formerly residential neighborhood, the Scott Street Fire House is the last remaining station house associated with the old volunteer fire companies. Built by the Lomax Fire Company #4, this 46' x 68' building combined functional characteristics with the exuberance of the Victorian period. Although the building has lost some of its ornamentation, it retains its basic form and association.

The upper and lower stories are separated by pronounced belt courses and decorative brick bonds. The first floor originally featured two, wide, arched double doors and a small arched window, all framed by arched hood moldings with keystone designs. The double doors were altered c. 1928 to accommodate modern fire equipment and are now square with roll-up type garage doors. The upper floor is flanked with paneled pilasters, and recessed panels with brick dentil courses and round single segmental arched windows with 1/1 lights. About 1915 a one-bay two story addition was added to the west. The upper floor window is treated like those of the earlier portion. Originally the upper floor of the building was topped with a bracketed cornice, corner urns, and a segmental arched panel behind which rose an elaborate Victorian belfry-like structure. All of this has been removed and the top is a simple row of brick dentiling and a low stepped parapet which probably dates from the 1915 addition. Additionally, a marble placque once centered below the paired windows has been removed and placed on a more recent station.

Inside the fire House the first floor is a large open space with ceiling supported by decorative cast iron pillars. The walls are plaster and the ceiling is beaded paneling. A dispatcher's booth occupies the center ground level. Although the pole is no longer present, the hole allowing firemen to descend quickly to the first floor is evident. A kitchen addition with iron casement windows is to the rear. The upstairs is dominated by a large dormitory and two sleeping porches. The stair well has beaded paneling as do the ceilings.

The Scott Street Fire House is very compatible with its surroundings. The 1858 Gerald-Dowdell House on the corner of Scott and Hull Streets; Finney's Scott Street Grocery, a board and batten cottage; the brick remains of the stables across Scott Street from the station house; and the Fire House give this block an atmosphere that is most charming and unusual in the midst of downtown. This short narrow block retains a nineteenth century flavor to which all the buildings contribute.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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** 1889-90 addition 1915 **Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Scott Street Fire House is significant as the oldest fire station in Montgomery and as the only one associated with the volunteer fire companies which served the city until 1898, when fire-protection was consolidated under city control. Located on a short block between South Decatur and South Hull, it was built at a time when the city was growing and expanding its boundaries.

\* \* \* \* \*

The mid and late 1880's were a boom time for Montgomery which had recovered from the pangs of Reconstruction and the aftermaths of the Panic of 1873. Both in the business sector and residential areas a building boom evidenced itself with the erection of many new structures. An increasing population necessitated an enlarged residential area, and the hills around the older, downtown section were early recognized as both healthy and attractive home sites.

Demands upon the volunteer fire companies, which had been in formal existence since at least 1847, grew, and as the hills were difficult to manage with heavy and clumsy fire equipment, requests were made that the city re-locate some of the downtown companies to the surrounding heights. Thus, Lomax Fire Company No. 4, the city's largest, purchased land in 1889 and built a new station about four blocks up the hill south of the business district.

Named for Colonel Lomax, a Montgomerian killed at the Battle of Seven Pines, Lomax Fire Company No. 4 had earlier been stationed at 128 Lee Street, in the heart of downtown. Upon its removal to Scott Street, the company constructed a new building embellished with ornate roofline adornments.

In 1898, after several years of negotiation, the City took over the fire outfits, and the Lomax Company became known as Steam Engine Company No. 2. Thomas F. McAdams was Captain of the crew with William H. Kelly as Engineer, Harry H. Hood, Engine Driver, Gus McDaniels, Hose Carriage Driver, W. E. Rollins, W. C. Starr, R. W. Coleman and Robert E. Nixon, Pipeman. This group had the distinction of answering the first call as a City Fire Department when an alarm came in from Box 41 on the corner of Jackson and Washington Streets on July 15, 1898.

In 1919, the Station was equipped with a Continental 2nd Class Engine, a combination Hose and Ladder Wagon, four horses and employed a crew of nine. Earlier, in 1901, tragedy had struck; in response to a call at 38 Sayre Street, the Captain of the company, J. W. Sykes was killed when a streetcar hit the hose wagon as it crossed the rail lines on Hull Street. Several fire fighters were injured and the hose carriage demolished. The horses, however, escaped injury. The company suffered another fatality when Engineer Harry Schaiff died with the collapse of a chimney during a fire at the Montgomery Country Club in February, 1926. That same year

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation Sheet)

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Montgomery South (7.5')

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A 

1	6	5	6	5	5	8	0	3	5	8	1	8	4	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Lot one in Square two of the Goldthwaite Plat (50' on Scott Street by 85' deep) also referred to as Lot 3 Square 2 Goldthwaite Plat.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ann Neeley, Marilyn Sullivan Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery/ Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission date December 4, 1980

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 832-6621

city or town Montgomery state Alabama

# 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 Phil B. Howard, Jr.

title SHPO date Dec. 4, 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Lynn S. Keebe</u>	date <u>Feb. 12, 1981</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Curt Bullock</u>	date <u>2/10/81</u>
Chief of Registration	

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 31 1980
DATE ENTERED	FEB 12 1981

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

---

witnessed the end of the era of horse-drawn fire engines. On January 12, "Joe" and "Ed", Scott Street's team, retired with arrival of an up-to-date fire truck.

Scott Street Fire House remained in operation until 1966 when the need for more room forced its closing and the removal of its men and equipment to the larger Hammer Hall Station. Since its closing, the building has been used first as a part of the Head Start Program and more recently as a storage area.

Built at a time when Montgomery was expanding, it represents an important time in the city's structural history as well as in the annals of fire-fighting in the town's past.

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

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

For HCRS use only	
received	
date entered	FEB 12 1981

Continuation sheet    Scott Street Fire House    Item number    8

Page    3

Statement of Significance ( continued)

Although the station was altered in the early 20th century ( probably around 1915), only three other fire stations ( Highland Avenue, 1911; West End, 1920's; and Cloverdale, 1927) remain from the pre-World War II period. Of these, only the Highland Avenue Station , which retains its original shape and design but has been covered with stucco, predates the changes to the Scott Street Station.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Abstract, in possession of the City of Montgomery.  
Advertiser-Journal, February 23, 1964.  
City Directory of Montgomery, 1887, 1893, 1895, 1899.  
McDaniel, Tenent L. Montgomery Fire Department, 1819-1926.  
n.p.: n.p., 1926.  
Montgomery City Planning Commission. Capitol Improvement Plan  
1955-1961.  
Montgomery Daily Advertiser, January 28, 1893.  
N.A. Souvenir of Montgomery Fire and Police Departments 1819-1902.  
Montgomery: W. M. Rogers, 1902