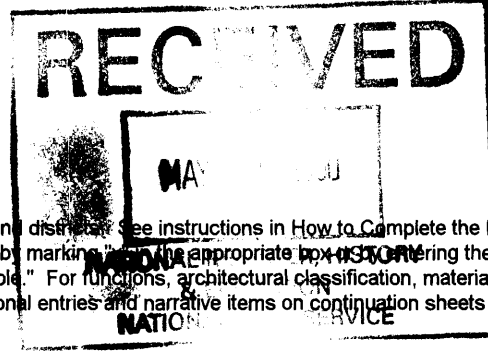


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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 the appropriate box or entering the information requested. If any 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 Shreveport Fire Station #8
other names/site number Velva Street Station

2. Location

street & number 3406 Velva St. NA not for publication
city or town Shreveport NA vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Caddo code 017 zip code 71109

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker May 10, 2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker Date
Deputy SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State or 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 this 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 Keeper for Arnold W. Pope Date of Action 6/30/00

Name of property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 0.

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Government

Sub. fire station

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Government

Sub. fire station

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Stucco
roof Tile
other

Narrative Description

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

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Shreveport's Fire Station #8 is a two-story stuccoed Spanish Colonial Revival building with a red tile roof. It was built in 1925 in the western part of the city near the fairgrounds. Today a few modest early twentieth century houses remain from the original neighborhood, with much of the area impacted by the proximity of Interstate 20. Although the fire station has received additions and other modifications, it retains all of its character-defining features.

The station's massing is decidedly asymmetrical, which is achieved via various projections and a variety of roof types and heights. The main block (two stories) features a gable end roof with the ridge running perpendicular to the street. Extending from this at a right angle, toward the rear, is a two story gable end section. Extending from the other side of the main block, at about the middle, is a shed roofed section containing the staircase. One story projections include the fire struck entrance, with its sinuous parapet; a shed roof section at the front; and a shed roof section on the northern elevation toward the rear. Two narrow decorative chimney tops thrusting well above the main roofline also contribute to the station's asymmetrical massing. A hose drying tower and fire truck bay, both at the rear, were added in 1953 using complimentary materials.

Several elements combine to give Fire Station #8 its strong Spanish character:

- (1) the previously mentioned red tile roof and slender decorative chimney tops.
- (2) plaster deliberately applied in a rough and irregular manner. The exterior's strongly textured treatment is particularly evident in certain types of light. Various shapes were created in the plaster, giving the appearance of rough masonry plastered over (see closeup photo).
- (3) the strongly articulated original front fire truck entrance bay. Above the arched opening is a sinuous parapet in the baroque manner. Anchoring each end of the parapet is a boldly articulated urn shape. At the parapet's center is a baroque-looking crest bearing the initials of the Shreveport Fire Department, with a swag to each side. The edges of the emblem are quite sinuous. The sides of the entrance bay curve at about the mid-point, as marked by a scroll volute. Finally, very Spanish-looking iron lamp standards are located to each side of the truck opening.

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(4) a tiny balcony on the north elevation resting on a curvaceous base featuring fluting, reeding and sculpted foliage.

(5) several windows, which although square head, feature a superimposed curving shape.

(6) decorative oculi with large keystones in the front and southern gables.

(7) various arched shapes and openings.

The station's floorplan is typical for a building of this type and period. A fire truck bay extends through the original building. Arched openings lead to spaces on either side. The principal spaces on the north side are the staircase and the hose drying tower. On the south side are an office, a day room, and kitchen/dining facilities. The upstairs consists of very utilitarian communal sleeping quarters. The only interior feature of architectural interest is the hooded fireplace in the day room.

Alterations include:

(1) the replacement of the original windows.

(2) the in-fill of one front window.

(3) the addition of a small grade level porch to the front. The porch is nothing more than a flat metal roof anchored at the corner with a thin pipe resting on a pier.

(4) the addition at the rear of a hose drying tower and a long fire truck bay, both in 1953. Within the last two years the rear truck bay was increased one or two feet in height to accommodate today's equipment. Both the 1953 work and the recent modification were done in a sensitive manner, using the same materials as the original station.

(5) the replacement of the original wooden double door on the fire truck entrance with a metal roll-down door.

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Assessment of Integrity:

Fortunately, Fire Station #8 retains all of its original character-defining Spanish Colonial Revival features, even the original lamp standards. The 1953 additions, while large, are to the rear and were done in a complimentary fashion. (The hose drying tower doesn't even read as an addition.) Replacement of the windows is not an overly serious issue because the windows were never a major element of the building (being small and fairly few in number). The front porch addition does not impact the building as much as one might think (see photos) because the elements forming it do not have a particularly strong visual character. The station's original character (asymmetrical massing and numerous Spanish-influenced features) is clearly visually dominant, alterations notwithstanding.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" next to 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.
X 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture
[Blank lines for additional categories]

Period of Significance

1925
[Blank lines for additional periods]

Significant Dates

1925
[Blank lines for additional dates]

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA
[Blank lines for additional affiliations]

Architect/Builder

Clarence King (architect)
[Blank lines for additional names]

Criteria Considerations

NA

(Mark "X" next to all that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

NA

- 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:

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

Name of repository:

Shreveport Fire Station #8

Name of property

Caddo Parish, LA

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approximately 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 426580 3593740

2

3

4

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

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 March 2000

street & number P.O. Box 44247 telephone (225) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Shreveport

street & number P. O. Box 31109 telephone 318-673-5085

city or town Shreveport state LA zip code 71130

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Shreveport's Fire Station #8 is of local architectural significance because, as a good example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style, it makes an important contribution to the city's identity as a showplace for twentieth century eclecticism – i.e., the use of various historic revival styles. Also, of the city's impressive historic revival landmarks, only a very limited number are Spanish in derivation, and the fire station is one of the most convincing of these.

Although Shreveport was founded in the 1830s, the architectural patrimony for which the city is primarily recognized dates to a phenomenal oil boom in the early twentieth century. Because there was so much money in Shreveport at the time, the city grew dramatically, producing some of the state's very best historic twentieth century architecture. And, of course, this was a period when eclecticism prevailed. Like the rest of the country, Shreveporters looked much to the past for architectural inspiration – whether it be the American colonial past (or what they perceived to be “colonial”) or the exotic and faraway past of French chateaux, Mediterranean villas and “olde English” cottages. And “designing in the period” was assisted greatly by a rising generation of architects who could produce a design in just about any style from any period, whatever the client wanted.

The foregoing left an impressive legacy of houses, commercial buildings, and institutional buildings in a variety of historic revival styles – including Colonial Revival (in its various permutations), the English look, French Eclectic, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Italian- Mediterranean – not to mention such one-of-a-kind statements as a strongly Germanic fire station and an Islamic house. Around thirty to forty first-class examples survive (concentrated in the downtown and South Highlands) to establish Shreveport as Louisiana's most important center of eclecticism, with the possible exception of New Orleans. Fire Station #8 is one of these landmarks, and, in fact, is one of only two in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Hispanic styles such as Mission or Spanish Colonial Revival were never numerous in Shreveport (as is true of the state as a whole). The city's few examples include about a half dozen houses, a train station, the A. C. Steere School (NR) and Fire Station #8. Of these, the school and fire station are the most intensively articulated examples.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historic photos of Fire Station #8.

Historic Structures Survey, South Highlands. Copy in survey files of Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Staff knowledge of Shreveport gleaned from above survey as well as numerous National Register nominations prepared in-house.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Shreveport's Fire Station #8 sits on a block bounded by Velva Avenue to the east, Kings Highway to the south, an unnamed alley to the west and Edgar Street to the north. Boundaries follow the curblines of these streets.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries recognize the parcel of land historically associated with the fire station.