

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

For NPS use only

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

received MAR 7 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Central Fire Station
~~XXX~~ or common Bogan Fire Station

2. Location

street & number 427 Laurel St. N/A not for publication
city, town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity of
state LA code 22 ~~county~~ parish East Baton Rouge code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" 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 City of Baton Rouge - Parish of East Baton Rouge (504) 389-3100
Office of the Mayor-President
street & number P. O. Box 1471
city, town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity of state LA 70821

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. East Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse
street & number 222 St. Louis Street P. O. Box 1991
city, town Baton Rouge state LA 70821

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Survey of Downtown Baton Rouge has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1983-84 federal state county local
depository for survey records Foundation for Historical Louisiana, Inc.
city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bogan Fire Station (1924) is a two story brick and terra-cotta building with a Gothic facade. It is located at the corner of Laurel and Fifth Streets in downtown Baton Rouge. Despite a few alterations, the features which contribute to the fire station's architectural significance remain intact.

The station consists of a large open garage area downstairs, a living area upstairs, a rear wing, and a contemporaneous hose drying tower. Originally the front bays of the lower story contained sets of heavy wooden doors. These have since been replaced with sheets of glass. The garage interior features tile walls, a concrete floor, and an ornamental metal stair leading to the upper living area. The only remaining wooden doors are located at the rear. The ground story has recently been fitted with bathrooms and an elevator. The upper story has been completely renovated for office space; however, the original brass fireman's pole survives. Moreover, most of the present windows are original.

Despite the above changes, the station's polychromatic glazed terra-cotta facade, which is the source of its architectural significance, remains intact. Colors include pink, gold, blue, purple and green. Although the facade is articulated in an essentially classical trabeated form, the detailing is largely Gothic and most of it is derived from the English Perpendicular style.

The facade is separated into bays by pairs of narrow brick composite pilasters which resemble colonnettes. Each end of the facade terminates in a narrow projecting pavilion which contains bas-relief torches set in cusped panels. In addition, the second story window of each end pavilion is surmounted by a bas-relief two center pointed arch with an inscribed quatrefoil. Each of the five main bays of the facade features an elaborate terra-cotta paneled area consisting of molded cusps, pointed arches, crockets, and shields with chevrons. In addition, each paneled area has a single broad Tudor arch and a central shield, inscribed with the date 1924, and surmounted by a bas-relief pelican. The rooftop parapet has a raised middle panel containing a Tudor arch flanked by bas-relief torches in pointed arch panels. Over the Tudor arch is the date "1924." Under the arch the words "Central Fire Station" are inscribed in Gothic lettering.

Assessment of Integrity:

In addition to the aforementioned changes, a rear fire escape has been added (see photo 5). None of these changes have significantly impacted the facade of the building, which is the source of its significance.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1924 **Builder/Architect** Builder; City of Baton Rouge
Architect: William T. Nolan

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Bogan Fire Station is locally significant in the area of architecture as a landmark in downtown Baton Rouge.

The Baton Rouge central business district consists of about 200 buildings, most of which are commercial. Although the fire station itself was never a commercial building, it was built in the prevailing commercial style of the early twentieth century. This can be seen in its two story, rectangular, parapeted, masonry form and in its use of bays to articulate the facade. In fact, the fire station could easily be mistaken for a commercial structure were it not for the "Central Fire Station" lettering in the parapet.

Taken among the commercial style buildings of Baton Rouge, the Bogan Fire Station is conspicuous because of its striking Gothic styling. It is the only Gothic style commercial building in the central business district. Moreover, with its elaborate Perpendicular paneling, the fire station facade is more intensively styled than most of Baton Rouge's historic churches.

The Bogan Fire Station facade is also important as an example of the use of terra-cotta. There are about six commercial style facades in the Baton Rouge central business district which feature elaborate terra-cotta ornamentation. But in most cases they employ only one color of terra-cotta. The fire station facade is the only one which employs several different colors of glazed terra-cotta to achieve a polychromatic effect.

Historical Sketch - Prepared by Joel Gardner, State Division of the Arts

The Old Bogan Fire Station at 427 Laurel Street was begun in 1924 and dedicated as the Central Fire Station in 1925. At the time, the building symbolized the turning of a page in the history of Baton Rouge, for it recognized the need of the growing city for updated firefighting equipment. The station was one of four mandated by a bond issue of \$175,000 passed in 1922. At the time of its construction, it was, according to a 1930 Fire Department publication, "the peer of any in the state."

The publication continues: "From the barnlike structures that formerly housed the apparatus come the modern picturesque engine houses with all facilities and the motorized horse carriage and chemical type... The growth and expansion of the city is no better illustrated than in the growth of its fire department which as in all cases of civic development is the best gauge of a city's progressiveness."

The building is now named for Robert A. Bogan, who was chief of the department from 1918 until his death in 1959. Throughout Bogan's career, he emphasized the importance of quality in equipment and prevention, and the department consistently

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical sketch of Bogan Fire Station prepared by Joel Gardner, Oral Historian,
Division of the Arts, State of Louisiana.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property — approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ acre

Quadrangle name Baton Rouge, West, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	7	14	2	10	10	3	13	6	19	9	21	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

Please refer to enclosed sketch map for description. Justification: The southern boundary follows the Laurel St. curbline. The remaining boundaries were cut closely due to the proximity of adjacent buildings and a parking lot.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY OWNER
Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date January 1984

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer Robert B. DeBlieux date February 24, 1984

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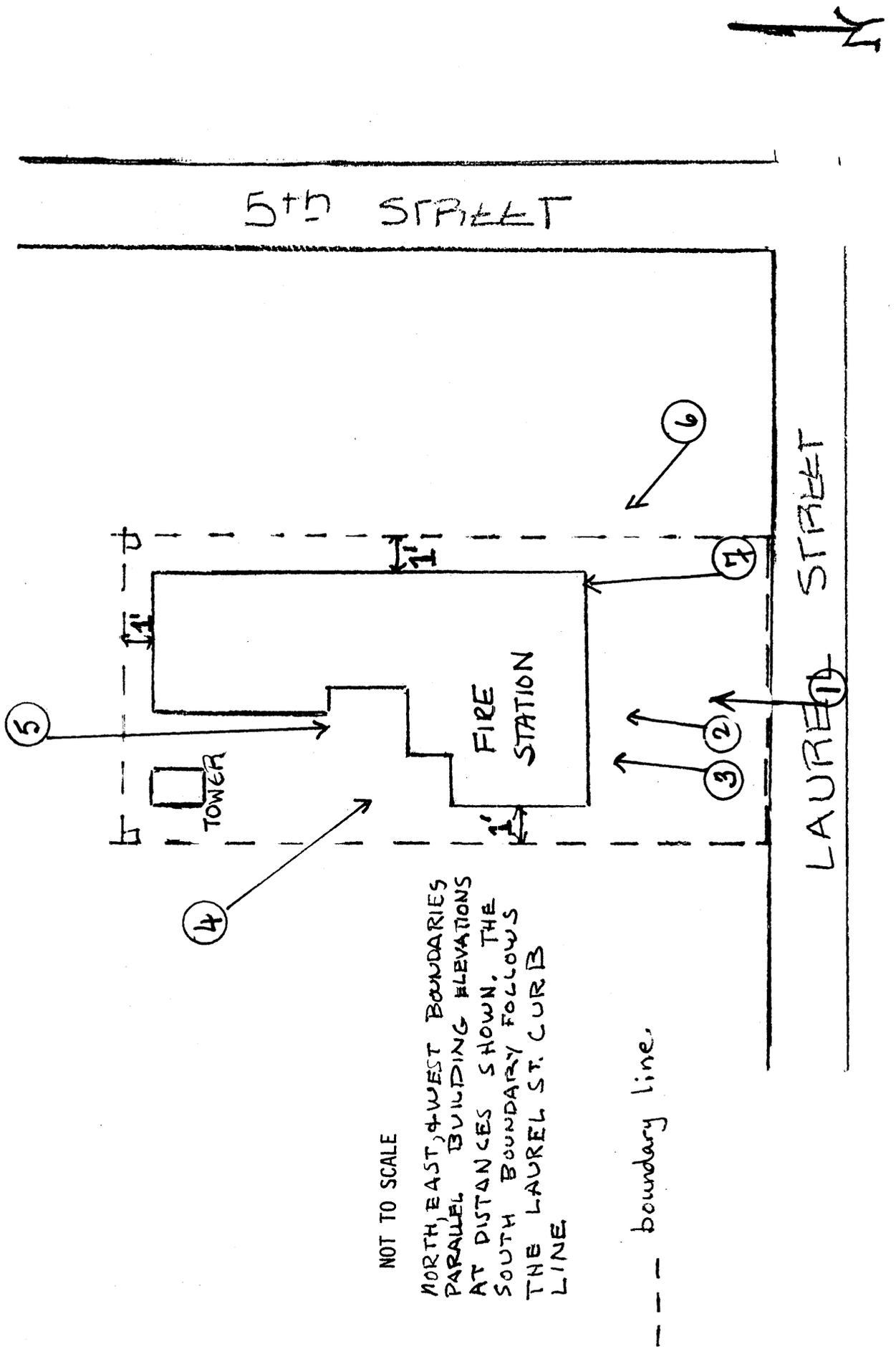
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melissa Byers date 4/5/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

CENTRAL FIRE STATION (BOGAN FIRE STATION)
 BATON ROUGE, EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH



NOT TO SCALE

NORTH, EAST, & WEST BOUNDARIES
 PARALLEL BUILDING ELEVATIONS
 AT DISTANCES SHOWN. THE
 SOUTH BOUNDARY FOLLOWS
 THE LAUREL ST. CURB
 LINE

--- boundary line.