

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0684881

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 21 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 2 1978

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Pascagoula Central Fire Station #1 Bldg.

AND/OR COMMON "Old Fire Station"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 623 Delmas Avenue

CITY, TOWN Pascagoula

STATE Mississippi

VICINITY OF

CODE 028

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

COUNTY Jackson

CODE 059

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. Atkinson Longmire

STREET & NUMBER 909 Griffin Street

CITY, TOWN Moss Point

VICINITY OF

STATE Mississippi 39563

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Jackson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Canty, Street

CITY, TOWN Pascagoula

STATE Mississippi 39567

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE 1978 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN Jackson

STATE Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pascagoula Central Fire Station #1 is an approximately 40' X 80' two-story building with masonry bearing walls and wood timbers as roof and floor beams. The ground floor is divided into three parts: (1) the office and living area; (2) the equipment and vehicle room; and (3) the stair and foyer area, which lead to a multi-purpose room above. The equipment and vehicle room is located in the middle, with access to the street through folding overhead doors. The street has now been turned into a shopping mall. The upstairs is completely open space with handsome oak flooring, paneled wainscot, and stairs and banisters. Large 4' X 8' windows and six original ceiling fans provide light and ventilation. At the north side of the room is an elevated bandstand and podium with oak handrails. On the south side are a pair of 8' high wood doors, flanked by 4' X 8' wood windows that lead onto a balcony. Windows are wood casement.

The stucco exterior of the Spanish Colonial Revival building is enriched with wood trim, windows, and doors and is further accented with a decorative pediment surmounted by a bell-cote motif.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Safety

SPECIFIC DATES 1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Owen

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pascagoula Central Fire Station #1, located in the heart of Pascagoula on what was once Delmas Avenue, but is now the Downtown Plaza, rose like the phoenix from the ashes of its predecessor, destroyed in a fire in 1921. The new station remained the principal fire facility for the city of Pascagoula over the next fifty years, until July, 1975, when the Pascagoula Fire Department moved to its modern quarters on Jackson Avenue. Although no longer used as a fire station, the building stands as a monument to the city's volunteer firefighters, whose organization will in a few years celebrate its 100th anniversary. The fire station also played a vital role in the sociological development of the city.

Organized on the night of October 22, 1883, and chartered by the State of Mississippi on February 28, 1884, Scranton Fire Company #1 emerged as an attempt by local men to protect lives and property in the town of Scranton, as Pascagoula was then known. Firefighting was a backbreaking task for Pascagoula's first firemen; in fact, the first equipment used by the firemen was a hand-pulled pumper. When the firefighters prepared this old relic for a February, 1925, parade, celebrating the dedication of the Pascagoula Central Fire Station #1, one of the charter members of the company reminisced about the pumper:

Why, I remember when that outfit arrived in old Scranton and the cordial reception we fellows gave her; . . .we felt we were ready to tackle any fire that could be started around here. . . . It was all right for a short distance, but. . .in those days there were no paved streets and men became fatigued after tugging the engine a few blocks. . .I don't remember what the hand pumper cost; but, no matter what it cost, it served well, and has saved thousands of dollars worth of property from destruction;. . .to us old chaps it symbolizes a faith in our ability to help our neighbors, and a devotion to duty well performed, which was all the recompense we ever wanted for our humble services. (The Chronicle Star, February 13, 1925)

The first anniversary celebration of the founding of Scranton Fire Company #1 was held on October 22, 1884, with a colorful parade in the afternoon and a grand ball that evening. Much of Scranton's and later Pascagoula's social life was centered around activities sponsored by the company--the annual anniversary celebration, the Fourth of July picnic, and numerous dances and grand balls featuring the company's brass band, "the best uniformed and snappiest brass band in these parts." In fact, Pascagoula Central Fire Station #1 was designed with a large open room spanning the entire second story to accommodate the almost-weekly dances, meetings, etc. As one of Pascagoula's octogenarians recalls, the fire station was much more to Pascagoula's history than a building housing fire equipment; it was the social hub of the city, and

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chronicle Star (1924, 1925)
Mississippi Press (5/8/67, 5/10/67, 2/15/76)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Pascagoula, Miss.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 350250 3360225
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property is located on the north side of Delmas Street and is designated as Parcel 5-A of Block 6, according to the property ownership map of the Pascagoula Urban Renewal Project MISS. R-40, dated August 15, 1971.

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

Linda Rosa, Grants Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

City of Pascagoula

DATE

August 24, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Watts Avenue

TELEPHONE

(601) 762-1020

CITY OR TOWN

Pascagoula

STATE

Mississippi 39567

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Elmer B. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 15, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-8-78

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/8/78

[Signature]
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

many families centered their recreation activities around the fire house. No one can measure what that building added to the life of the working people in Pascagoula. Many a night people would walk uptown after supper just to play dominos and visit with their neighbors.

The Fourth of July picnic was a much-heralded event of the Scranton Fire Company #1 and was its principal fund-raising affair. Early company history reveals that these volunteer firefighters wanted a permanent home, and the social activities supplied the method for realizing the dream. The Fourth of July picnic was held at Old Anderson Park on the west end of Pascagoula's beach; in the early years, "street cars brought crowds from Moss Point and adjoining communities and special trains over the Pascagoula-Moss Point Northern Railway rolled in with gay crowds from as far away as Hurley." By 1924, the building fund totaled nearly \$9,000.00, and the company owned a lot on Delmas Avenue, which it had purchased in 1922 for \$100.00. The firefighters wanted to begin construction of a firehall which was designed in 1919 by Charles Owen, a Mobile architect.

The method used by the firemen in obtaining financing for the remainder of the estimated \$23,000.00 construction costs was a tribute to the financial acumen of the company and its devotees. As a 1925 newspaper story attests, the firehouse

was built under a financial arrangement regarded as unique by men familiar with financing public buildings. . . . A plan was worked out whereby the City would lease one half the ground floor of the building for ten years at a yearly rental of \$1,800.00, and thereafter have perpetual free rent. The matter was. . . submitted to the people who promptly ratified the agreement. Arrangements were then made with the Merchants and Marine Bank to take up the City's lease notes. (Chronicle Star, February 13, 1925)

On April 26, 1924, bids for construction of Pascagoula Central Fire Station #1 were opened by "a joint committee representing the Pascagoula Central Fire Company, the City, and the Merchants and Marine Bank." A. Ziegenfelder, a local contractor, submitted the low bid of \$22,440.41, with a completion date of October 22, 1924. A 1924 newspaper article described the proposed station:

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The building will be of brick and modern and up-to-date in every respect. . . . The upper floor will be dedicated to public use. . . and will also be used by the Firemen for their regular meetings. The lower floor will be divided into two sections. The western half will be used by the city as official headquarters. . . . The mayor will have a private office, and also a court room for trying violations of the city laws, and behind this will be two cells or lock-ups for those whom he commits to imprisonment or for detaining the casual citizen who runs afoul the law and must explain his actions to the mayor.

The eastern section downstairs will be used to house the city's fire equipment. . . . In the back will be a rest room equipped with conveniences for the members when they desire to while a few hours away in their home.

The front will be finished off in architectural symmetry, so the building will add to the attractiveness of that part of the city. (Chronicle Star, April 25, 1924)

A sense of cohesiveness between the firehall and existing buildings was important to the firefighters; in fact, the June 13, 1924, Chronicle Star notes that

a slight change in the location of the building was made after consulting all interested parties, and the new fire hall will be ten feet back from the sidewalk instead of flush with the walk as was first planned. This change will put the fire hall in line with its handsome neighbor, the Merchants and Marine Bank.

A Christmas wreath with a lighted electric candle decorated the window of the new Pascagoula Central Fire Station #1, which received its occupants in early December, 1924. Plans were made for an elaborate formal dedication on February 12, 1925.

On February 4, 1925, Mayor J. R. Watts issued a proclamation, declaring a holiday in the city on February 12, and calling "upon all citizens to join with the members of the Fire Company in making the occasion a memorable event, and in expressing a degree of appreciation for their great distribution [sic.] to the city."

The February 12, 1925, holiday was one of the red-letter days in Pascagoula's long and colorful history. Heralded as "the handsomest and most modern building of the kind

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on the Mississippi Coast," the Pascagoula Central Fire Station #1 was formally dedicated following a parade through the central business district. According to a Chronicle Star account of the festivities:

Pascagoula took a loving interest in the day's events; the people seemed to want to give a spontaneous outpouring of expression of their appreciation to the Firemen for their long years of keeping the faith and for this latest and their supreme gift to the general happiness.

Thus the dream of Scranton Fire Company #1 became a reality. The building stands today in its quiet stateliness as a tribute to the volunteer firemen who "left their jobs in the daytime and tumbled out of bed at night at the first sounding of the fire-bell."

The city of Pascagoula proposes to purchase Central Fire Station #1, which is now in private ownership, to insure that the building will be preserved. Once the building is in public ownership, the city intends to rehabilitate and convert it to a multi-purpose senior citizens center.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot #8 of the Subdivision of the Estate of W. E. Frederic, deceased, and running thence West along the North boundary line of said Lot 8 and the South line of the L & N Railroad Right-of-Way 25', thence 66' to the Northwest corner of the Lot of said Scranton Fire Company #1, thence East 25', thence 66' to the place of beginning, as shown by a plat of the said Estate of W. E. Frederic, deceased, on record on Page 67 of Plat Book 1 on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Jackson County, State of Mississippi, and being in the City of Pascagoula, Jackson County, State of Mississippi. Filed for record on May 6, 1922 at 1:30 p.m.

Beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot #7 of the Subdivision of the Estate of W. E. Frederic, deceased, as shown by a plat thereof recorded on Page 67 of Plat Book 1 on file in the Chancery Clerk's Office of Jackson County, and running thence South 66 feet to Lot of said Scranton Fire Company, thence East 25', thence North 66' to the Right-of-Way of the L & N Railroad Company, thence West along the North boundary line of said Lot 7 and the South boundary line of said Right-of-Way 25' to the place of beginning and being in the City of Pascagoula, Jackson County, State of Mississippi. Filed for record on May 6, 1922 at 1:30 p.m.