

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCRS use only

received MAR 23 1982  
date entered APR 23 1982

## 1. Name

historic Central Fire Station

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 331 Scott Street        not for publication

city, town Davenport        vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Iowa code 19 county Scott code 163

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name City of Davenport

street & number City Hall, 226 W. 4th Street

city, town Davenport        vicinity of state Iowa 52801

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scott County Courthouse

street & number 4th Street

city, town Davenport state Iowa

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Davenport Historical/Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible?   x   yes        no

date Pending 2/81        federal        state        county   x   local

depository for survey records City of Davenport, City Hall, 226 W. 4th Street

city, town Davenport state Iowa

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Central Fire Station is a two story rectangular brick structure situated at the intersection of a major and minor arterial street. The wagon bays face 4th Street and the office entrance faces Scott Street. A two story modern annex adjoins the building. The annex has three truck bays facing Scott Street.

The 80'x 90' main building was constructed in 1901 of tan brick with dressed stone trim. Its Colonial Revival design gives the building balance and symmetry. Typical details of this style present in the Fire Station include roof and entrance pediments, ionic columns, a simple, dentiled cornice, a combination hip-flat roof, and oval windows with keystones. The bell tower (the taller) and the observation tower project vertically and horizontally from the building. They are an asymmetrical feature carried over from the Victorian Period's sense of aesthetics. The rounded arches on second story windows are unusual for a building of this design.

The annex was constructed in c. 1940 of matching tan brick. It has a flat deck roof and a five story tower used for training exercises. The metal window sashes contain 15 lights and are grouped in pairs. Pilasters separating the truck bays continue the rhythm established in the wagon bay facade.

Alterations to the main building include shortening of the bell and observation towers and removal of the bell tower's cornice before 1953, replacement of double hung window sash with aluminum sash in 1960, construction of a one story brick addition adjacent to the office entrance in 1950, removal of the slate roof in 1941, and installation of a new wagon door facing Scott Street in 1950. Inside, the original oak staircase, wainscoating, and first floor plan are retained. Modifications are confined to drop ceilings, wood paneling, kitchen improvements, floor coverings, new doors, and minor plan changes on the second floor. The annex has had only minor changes.

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				
<b>Specific dates</b>	1901–present	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This building is associated with the era of expanding professional fire fighting in the city of Davenport after 1900. Still used as the main fire station, the building typifies fire station design of the period.

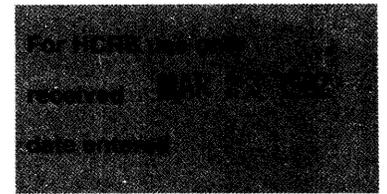
Davenport's early fire fighting centered around volunteer hook and ladder and hose companies. Located throughout the city in makeshift quarters and fitted out with poor equipment, the volunteer units made heroic but inadequate fire fighting efforts. By 1880, with the city's population topping 21,000, the need for a professional, paid fire department heightened. In response, the City Council authorized formation of a City sponsored fire department in 1882. Chief Marsh Noe and twelve men made up the first paid department.

By 1900 the fire department had six hose companies scattered throughout the city. A citywide alarm system and fire hydrant network were in place. To keep pace with the increasing numbers and size of downtown buildings, as well as the overall growth of the city, the City Council authorized erection of a new, central fire station in 1901 to replace the Fire King Station at 117 Perry Street (still extant). The new station was built on the site of Hook and Ladder Co. 1. The Fire Department numbered 30 men when Central Fire Station was completed. In subsequent years, new hose stations replaced existing branch stations and were added to growing sections of the city. Central Fire Station continued as headquarters for the expanding department through the years. Its replacement is not contemplated in the foreseeable future.



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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Major Bibliographic References (cont.)

Lemn, H. J., Souvenir of Police and Fire Department of Davenport, Iowa, Davenport: Democrat Co., 1899.

"The Old Volunteer Fire Department of Davenport from 1856-1882," c. 1902 pamphlet, contained in Davenport Public Library Collection.

Davenport Building Permit Records, 1919-1980.

Davenport Fire Department Annual Reports, 1883-1893.