United States Department of the InteriorHeritage Conservation and Recreation ServiceFor HCRS use onlyNational Register of Historic Placesreceived DEC 3 1 1980Inventory—Nomination Formdate entered FEB 1 1
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street & number 418 Scott Street not for publication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
Category       Ownership       Status       Present Use
4. Owner of Property
name Randy Roark- City of Montgomery.
street & number 423-South-Hull-Street Box 11
city, town Montgomery vicinity of
5. Location of Legal Description
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse
street & number 142 Washington Avenue
city, townMontgomerystateAlabama6. Representation in Existing Surveys
title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined elegible?yesr
date 1970-presentfederal state county loc

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery

state Alabama

\*

# 7. Description

#### Condition

excellent	deteriorated	unaitered
good	ruins	$\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ altered
X_ fair	unexposed	

**Check one** X\_ original site

> \_\_ moved date \_

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

Check one

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—C	heck and justify below		
prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699	<ul> <li>archeology-prehistoric</li> <li>archeology-historic</li> <li>agriculture</li> <li>architecture</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>community planning</li> <li>conservation</li> <li>economics</li> <li>education</li> </ul>	Iandscape architectur Iaw Iaw literature Iiteratury	science sculpture _X social/
1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	art commerce communications	engineering     exploration/settlement     industry     invention	music t philosophy politics/government	humanitarian theater transportation 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 equipmnet, 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 Sh	neet)
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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE	ONLY			
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DATE ENTERED		FEB'	12	1981

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	8	PAGE	2
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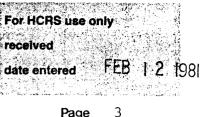
witnessed the end of the era of horse-drawn fire engines. On January 12, "Joe" and "Ed", Scott Street's team, retired with arrival of an up-to-date fire truck.

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



Continuation sheet Item number 8 Scott Street Fire House

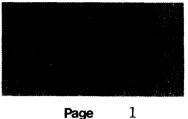
Page

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
Abstract, in possession of the Cit	ty of Montgomery.		
Advertiser-Journal, February 23, 1	1964.		
City Directory of Montgomery, 1887		•	
McDaniel, Tenent L. Montgomery Fir			
n.p.: n.p., 1926.	·′		
Montgomery City Planning Commission 1955-1961.	on. <u>Capitol Improv</u>	ement Plan	
	<b>a</b> a <b>a</b> aa <b>z</b>		

Montgomery Daily Advertiser, January 28, 1893. N.A. Souvenir of Montgomery Fire and Police Departments 1819-1902. Montgomery: W. M. Rogers, 1902