

**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 "x" in the appropriate box or by 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 North Columbia Fire Station No. 7
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 2622 North Main Street not for publication
city or town Columbia vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Richland code 079 zip code 29201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
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 commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):		

North Columbia Fire Station No. 7
Name of Property

Richland County, South Carolina
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)

private

building(s)

Contributing

Noncontributing

public-local

district

1

buildings

public-State

site

sites

public-Federal

structure

structures

object

objects

1

Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Government

Subcategory: Fire Station

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Government

Subcategory: Fire Station

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement - Moderne /
International Style walls

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
Brick

roof other
other _____

Narrative Description

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

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for 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.
- 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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1948

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Singley, Heyward S. (Architect)
Crosland Construction Company

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):

- 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
Richland County Public Library,
Columbia, S.C.

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North Columbia Fire Station No. 7

Name of Property

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The North Columbia Fire Station No. 7, located at 2622 North Main Street in the Cottontown (Bellevue) neighborhood of Columbia, S.C., is a two-story brick building constructed in a trapezoidal shape to fit into the open angle created by the intersection of North Main Street and Geiger Avenue. The rear of the building features traditional, right-angled corners, but the front is canted to parallel North Main Street. This causes the north wall of the building to be shorter than the south wall.

This flat-roofed building is set upon a concrete slab foundation that extends at the entrance bay to North Main Street to allow vehicular access to the street. The building is constructed of brick, employing a common bond with Flemish style header courses or a five-to-one common bond variation, with every sixth course alternating between headers and stretchers. The large, wide, centrally located garage door is framed by stone panels which have been utilized for decorative emphasis and is in keeping with the overall architectural style. The garage door is composed of seven and one-half smooth, flat horizontal panels; a series of nine small rectangular windows form two rows in the fourth and fifth panels from the top. To the right of the garage door is a pedestrian entrance door; its design mirrors the garage door, being a smooth, flat panel with a vertical row of small rectangular windows. To the left of the garage doors is a metal dedication plaque with information regarding the construction of the fire station. Above the garage door is a small rectangular stone panel that is inset into, and set off by, the brick curtain wall of the second floor. The decorative panel portrays, through sculptured relief, the bust of a firefighter. The year of construction (1948) is also included in the panel

The sculptured panel is flanked on either side by cast stone-surrounded bands of metal window units that wrap around the corners and continue down the sides. This detail is limited to the second floor. The windows along the sidewalls of the first level are individual units. The horizontally oriented bands of windows in the garage door mimic the windows of the second floor. The windows in the building have been replaced in recent years, but the replacement windows have maintained the original design intent of the architect.

The rear of the building has a large centrally-located garage door. This door is a more modern replacement that does not conform to the style of the building. To the right of the garage is an original, flat-surfaced pedestrian door. To the far left is another pedestrian door, a replacement that is not in keeping with the original style.

The building, at this time, is closed for interior renovations to the interior living quarters and working areas. It is scheduled to reopen later in 2005. As part of these renovations, both garage doors will be replaced, with a replica of the original front garage door to be used for both the front and rear; the panels will measure 24" high rather than the current 18", but all other elements of the style will be followed. The pedestrian door to the right of the front garage door will be retained. The pedestrian doors to the back of the building will be replaced with flat-surfaced metal doors.

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Name of Property

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The North Columbia Fire Station No. 7, at 2622 North Main Street, Columbia, S.C. (at its corner and Geiger Avenue), was built in 1948. It is significant under National Register Criterion C as an excellent example of the transition between the Art Moderne and International styles and also as a design of Heyward S. Singley, a prominent twentieth-century South Carolina architect well known for designing many public buildings across the state from the 1930s to the 1950s.

The city of Columbia organized its first fire department, a volunteer bucket brigade, in 1805, and the state chartered the Independent Fire Engine Company in 1837. This volunteer company was active through the end of the Civil War in 1865, and was joined soon afterwards by two more volunteer companies, the Phoenix Hose and Ladder Company and the Columbia Volunteer Association Fire Company. These two companies were funded by the citizens, businesses and insurance companies of Columbia and were maintained until the latter part of 1903 when the first city-operated fire department was organized with William J. May as Chief, who served until his death in 1924. May was succeeded by Archie McC. Marsh, who served until his retirement in 1962. During Chief Marsh's tenure the Columbia Fire Department saw tremendous change and growth. In 1924, Columbia's three fire stations, each of which served a different section or neighborhood, were consolidated into one central station at 1313 Sumter Street. As the city continued to grow in the first half of the twentieth century, however—from a population of 21,000 in 1900 to 37,000 by 1920, then to 51,000 by 1930 and more than 70,000 after World War II—it became necessary to build additional fire stations in different neighborhoods.¹ The first new neighborhood fire station, the Shandon Fire Station, was built on Devine Street in 1945; it was demolished in the early 1990s.

The North Columbia Fire Station No. 7, another post-World War II neighborhood fire station, was designed in 1947 and constructed by the Crosland Construction Company in 1948 at a cost of \$62,000. The 1948 annual report of the City of Columbia Fire Department described it as "completely fire resistant. It is two-story, brick, metal window frames, steel roofing supports, forced air heat, 12-bed dormitory with no separate officers' sleeping quarters, supply room, alarm room, recreation room, bathing, sanitation, and kitchen facilities. Three companies can be accommodated."²

The station was designed by Heyward S. Singley (1902-1959). Singley, a native of Prosperity, in Newberry County, was a 1924 graduate of the Clemson College (now Clemson University) School of Architecture. After several years working in other firms in Florida, Texas, and North Carolina, he established an independent practice in Prosperity in 1932. Singley served as a resident engineer for

¹ W.W. Golden, ed., *Annual Report, City of Columbia Fire Department 1972.*, Local History Room, Richland County Public Library, Columbia, S.C.; Helen Kohn Hennig, ed., *Columbia: Capital City of South Carolina: 1786-1936* (Columbia: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1936), pp. 82-83; Russell Maxey, *South Carolina's Historic Columbia: Yesterday and Today in Photographs* (Columbia: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1980), pp. 112-15.

² Griffenhagen and Associates, "Fire Department. Report # 4, City of Columbia, South Carolina," September 16, 1948, p. 27, Local History Room, Richland County Public Library, Columbia, S.C.

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the Public Works Administration in Charleston 1934-35 and as a resident engineer for J.E. Sirrinc and Company in Charleston 1935-36. He established his firm in Columbia by 1937.

Singley served as president of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects 1941-1945 and was advanced to the Fellowship of the American Institute of Architects in 1956, only the fourth South Carolina architect to be so honored.

Among Singley's notable public designs from the 1930s to the 1950s are most of the National Guard armories built in South Carolina immediately before, during, and after World War II, from 1939 to 1954; and several other fire stations, including one built in downtown Columbia in 1940; one built in Chester in 1947; the Columbia Central Fire Station, built in 1949; the Harden Street Fire Station in Columbia, built in 1952; as well as fire drill towers in Columbia built in 1940 and 1951.³

The North Columbia Fire Station No. 7 is an artful, high-style example of the transition and overlap between the Art Moderne and the International Style. The flat roof, clean lines, and spare detail are representative of the International Style. The horizontal and lateral banding is characteristic of both styles, but the positioning of the ribbon windows at the corners seems particularly reminiscent of a machine, such as the bridge of a ship, and so satisfied a trademark of the Art Moderne style. Lastly, although overt decoration was used sparingly by the architect, in compliance with the function-over-form tenets of the International Style, he did present a single decorative flourish – the portrait of the firefighter – that is evocative of the pre-World War II aesthetic sensibilities of the Art Moderne, and even Art Deco, eras.

³ Heyward S. Singley, Credentials and List of Designs Submitted to Donald Russell, President, University of South Carolina, ca. 1955, in Papers of the President, University of South Carolina, University Archives, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.; "Heyward Singley. . . F.A.I.A.," *South Carolina Magazine* (Columbia, S.C.), December 1957, 20, 96; Walter F. Petty, *Architectural Practice in South Carolina 1913-1963: A Semi-Centennial History of the South Carolina Chapter, the American Institute of Architects* (Columbia: South Carolina Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 1963), pp. 138, 140; John M. Bryan, *Architectural Practice: The South Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects* (Columbia: South Carolina Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 2003), pp. 161, 164.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "North Columbia Fire Station No. 7" on the accompanying Richland County Tax Map 09109, Parcel 8, Lot 1, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

[NOTE: The location of the building as marked "Fire Sta" on the accompanying U.S.G.S. Topographic Map "Columbia North" is incorrect, as the topographic map locates the building closer to the center of the block on North Main Street between Geiger Avenue and Summerville Avenue. The building is directly adjacent to Geiger Avenue. The UTM reference as marked on the accompanying U.S.G.S. Topographic Map and as given in this nomination is the proper location of the North Columbia Fire Station No. 7.]

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to the historic fire station and the city lot on which it is located.

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: North Columbia Fire Station No. 7
Location of Property: 2622 North Main Street, Columbia
Richland County, South Carolina

Name of Photographer: C. Russell Sox, Jr.
Date of Photographs: August 14, 2004
Location of Original Negatives: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia

1. Front of fire station, from North Main St.
2. Front of fire station, showing its setting at the corner of North Main and Geiger.
3. Front and side of fire station, from North Main St., showing its setting adjacent to the Bellevue Historic District (seen at the rear)
4. Front of fire station, from Geiger Ave., facing south along North Main St.
5. Northern side of fire station, from Geiger Ave.
6. Front and partial view of southern side of fire station, from North Main St.
7. Back of fire station, showing detail of back entrance and back garage door, from within the property.
8. Back of fire station and view of fence, from the corner of Geiger and Marion
9. Garage door at front of fire station, from North Main St.
10. Detail of stone panel above and to the left of the garage door, from North Main St.
11. Detail of stone panel above and to the right of the garage door, and view of second floor windows, from North Main St.
12. View of second-story windows, from the corner of North Main and Geiger.
13. View of first-story (ground) windows along northern side of fire house, from Geiger.
14. View of sculpted relief above the front garage door, from North Main St.
15. Close-up of sculpted relief above the front garage door, from North Main. St.
16. Close-up of plaque on the stone panel to the left of the front garage door, from North Main St.