OMB No. 10024-0018

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 an 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 Columbia Central Fire Station

other names/site number Columbia Fire Department Headquarters; Senate Street Station

2. Location

street & number 1001 Senate Street ☐ not for publication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, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

☐ nationally ☐ statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Columbia Central Fire Station
Name of Property

Richland County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- x private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- x building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
0		sites
1		structures
0		objects
3		Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Fire Station

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Warehouse/Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Moderne

International Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Masonry
walls Brick
Concrete
roof Composition
other Stone/Travertine

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

See continuation sheets.

Columbia Central Fire Station
Name of Property

Richland County, South Carolina
County and State

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.
- X **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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)
Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1949-1951

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)
Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B**. removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C**. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **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.

Significant Dates
1949
1951

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder
Singley, Heyward

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(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
- X University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:
South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina

Columbia Central Fire Station
Name of Property

Richland County, South Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	496640	3761855	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Morgen A. Young , with the assistance of the SHPO Staff
organization Public History Program date December 18, 2008
street & number University of South Carolina telephone 803-777-6398
city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29208

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Tom Prioreschi, Capitol Places VII, LLC
street & number 1530 Main Street telephone 803-779-5171
city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29201

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Narrative Description

The Columbia Central Fire Station consists of two buildings and a structure. The main building is a two-story fire station with a rectangular plan constructed in the Moderne and International styles, characterized by its lack of ornamentation, flat roof, and horizontal bands of windows. It is approximately 19,700 square feet. The masonry foundation supports brick walls laid in common bond, with every seventh course laid with alternating headers and stretchers. The fire truck garage building located in the northeast corner of the property is a one-story building, approximately 8,000 square feet. The masonry foundation supports brick walls laid in common bond, with every seventh course laid with alternating headers and stretchers. The drill tower is a six-story reinforced concrete structure located near the northwest corner of the site. It was built in the Moderne Style. It is approximately 21 feet by 21 feet.

The Central Fire Station is located at 1001 Senate Street, in the Congaree Vista area of Columbia, South Carolina, adjacent to the West Gervais Street Historic District [listed in the National Register on April 27, 1983]. The property has 209 feet of frontage along Park Street and 206 feet of frontage along Senate Street. The property is one block south of Gervais Street and one block west of the State House. The main building and garage are in good condition and have had no major alternations since their construction in 1949-50. The drill tower is in excellent condition and has had no alternations since its construction in 1951.

The main building of the Central Fire Station is a two-story masonry rectangular structure with a composition roof. A masonry foundation is covered with a travertine façade on the south and west elevations of the building. The main block along Senate Street, or the south elevation, consists of nine bays. The first bay, on the southwest corner of the site, is a bowed, slightly extended portion of the building. Four bowed concrete steps, flanked by two rectangular stone bases, lead upward to the recessed main entrance. The entrance incorporates a steel and glass single panel door, with a steel and glass transom, upon which is the original, painted numerical address of the fire station. Each canted side panel of the doorway is punctuated with three identical, square, molded, raised panels. A protruding travertine lintel shelters the recessed entryway. The stone façade of the entry pavilion continues upward, above the main entrance, to the cap of the second story. The second story of the rounded, travertine façade incorporates a single, steel awning window, which is glazed in three horizontal panels. The top of the bowed entrance bay is distinguished by pellet molding, directly underneath the rounded roof comb of the bay. Missing from the first bay is the original bronze lettering, displayed when the fire station was in use. The lettering spelled out “Columbia Fire Department Headquarters.” Moving from west to east, the next six bays each contain a steel and glass garage door. The travertine façade continues the length of the first floor. Each garage door consists of operable horizontal metal panels with two rows of small, horizontal windows punctuating the upper half. The second story, from the second bay to the last, is constructed of brick. On the second-story, above and corresponding to each garage door, are tripartite steel awning windows, with three horizontal glazed panels, divided by mullions and organized in a band with travertine surround. Between each set of windows is a brick panel [later partially opened to accommodate air conditioning units]. Each window’s sill is constructed of brick laid in soldier course style. The last two bays also contain garage doors, in the exact style as the others, but above the final bays is a brick and iron balcony with Art Deco inspired ironwork balustrades. The cast stone surround for the window band carries as the balcony rail and lintel for the balcony openings. The south elevation has a small roof comb, which is capped by travertine that extends the width of the building. Poured concrete forms a continuous driveway in front of all except the first bay. This driveway originally extended to Senate Street, but has since been truncated by the introduction of a landscaped area.

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The west elevation faces Park Street. It is constructed of a masonry foundation and consists of brick with a travertine façade. The travertine wraps around from the south elevation of the building and covers the entire first-story of the west elevation. The second-story is laid entirely in brick. The first-story incorporates seven steel awning windows: two windows, which are glazed in six horizontal panels, three-beside-three, divided by a mullion; four windows, which are glazed in three horizontal panels; and one window, which is glazed in nine horizontal panels, three-beside-three-beside-three, divided by mullions. All but one of the windows have been covered with aluminum louvered shutters. The windows on the second-story correspond directly in size with those beneath them on the first-story, except that they are surrounded by a continuous band of travertine. Each window's sill on the second-story is constructed of brick laid in the soldier course style. A roof comb is capped with travertine.

The east elevation of the main building is constructed entirely of brick, with a masonry foundation. The first floor extends the length of the building and incorporates five steel casement windows, which are glazed in twelve horizontal panels, six-beside-six, divided by mullions. The bottom half of each first-story window has been covered with plywood. A band of travertine wraps from the building's facade and delineates the height of the first-story, extending the entire depth of the building. The second-story extends only a third of the length of the first-story. Four window openings punctuate the second-story of the building's east elevation. The first bay marks the side view from the balcony and is unglazed. Three steel casement windows fill the remaining bays and are glazed in six horizontal panels, three-beside-three, divided by mullions. Each window's sill, on both stories, is constructed of brick laid in the soldier course style. The upper travertine band wraps from the building's facade and acts as lintel for these second story bays. The walls of this level continue as brick. The east elevation has a small roof comb, the top of which is covered in a travertine cornice.

The rear elevation of the main building has a masonry foundation and is constructed entirely of brick. The northeast end of the building is distinguished by a single bay, consisting of steel and glass garage, of the same design as those in the south elevation. West of the garage door are two steel casement windows, which are glazed in three horizontal panels. Two wooden two-panel doors serve as separate entrances to the main building. Between the doors are several windows: two steel casement windows, glazed in three horizontal panels, three-beside-three and divided by a mullion and six steel casement windows, glazed in three horizontal panels. West of the second wooden door are two steel casement windows, glazed in three horizontal panels, three-beside-three, divided by a mullion and five steel casement windows, glazed in three horizontal panels. The majority of the first-story windows have been boarded over with wood or aluminum shutters. The northwest corner of the rear elevation has a second-story, marked by a ribbon of steel awning windows, glazed in twelve horizontal panels, three-beside-three-beside-three-beside-three. The second-story on the northwest corner of the rear elevation connects to the recessed second-story, forming an L-shape. The remainder of the second-story is recessed, comprising only a third of the space of the first-story. Beginning from the northeast corner, metal awning windows comprise most of the area of this recessed second story. Beginning from the northeast end of the rear of the building, the windows are arranged as follows: one window, glazed in nine horizontal panels, three-beside-three-beside-three, divided by mullions; one window, glazed in twelve horizontal panels, three-beside-three-beside-three-beside-three, divided by mullions; three windows, glazed in six horizontal panels, three-beside-three, divided by mullions; one window, glazed in three horizontal panels; one window, glazed in six horizontal panels, three-beside-three, divided by a mullion; and one window, glazed in twelve horizontal panels, three-beside-three-beside-three-beside-three, divided by mullions. Each window's sill, on both the first and second stories, is constructed of brick laid in the soldier course style. The open area consists of a composition roof and there is no direct access to this roof from the recessed second-story.

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Since its abandonment in 1995, the Central Fire Station has served as storage space for the city. The original floor plan, however, remains intact. The main entrance of the south elevation leads into a large room, which originally contained the front desk and administrative assistant. East of the first room is the main stairwell, which is enclosed. A corridor extends from the front room to the back of the building and leads to four, equally sized offices and three bathrooms. Northeast of the corridor are two additional rooms, another office and a filing room, the latter of which leads directly to the main space of the building. The main space of the building originally held eight fire trucks. Three rows of concrete columns, nineteen in total, interrupt the space. In the middle of the space is a second enclosed stairwell. The rear of the main space consists of several rooms, including a combined kitchen and dining area, a boiler room, a bathroom, an electrical room, and a control room, which has a slightly rounded exterior wall, incorporating eight single-glazed windows. The northeast corner of the building consists of a second large space, accessible through the garage door on the rear elevation. The second-story served mainly as sleeping quarters for the firemen and officers. The room in the southwest corner of the second-story served as an office. A small corridor leads from the office to the rear elevation where there are two closets, a bathroom and a bedroom, used by the fire chief. Returning to the office in the southwest corner of the second-story, a doorway connects the office to a large, open space, which was used as one section of sleeping quarters for the firemen. The room is marked by a hole and a semi-circular guardrail, which once held the fire pole used by the firemen. Two doors on the northern wall of the room lead to a back hallway. An open archway leads from this room into a similarly sized one, also used as sleeping quarters. This room also houses a hole and semi-circular guardrail, which also held a fire pole. Two doors on the northern wall lead to the back hallway. A hallway east of the room leads to a room used as recreation space as well as to the brick balcony. The office leads to a room in the northeast corner of the second-story, which served as a bedroom for visiting city officials. Toward the rear of the second floor is a long hallway that extends from east to west. Along this hallway are two locker rooms, two bathrooms, two shower rooms and two washrooms.

The fire truck garage building is a one-story masonry and steel constructed building with a masonry foundation and composition roof, located on the northeast corner of the site. The south elevation, which is partially visible from Senate Street, has three bays. The southeast bay consists of single steel and glass garage door, marked by three rows of horizontal windows. The second bay marks the building's recessed entrance. The brick lintels of the entrance and two garage doors are laid in the soldier course style. A pair of two-paneled wooden doors with a glass transom is in the center of the recessed entrance. On either side of the main entrance are boarded-up windows. Wooden single panel doors are located on the east and west areas of the recessed entryway. The third bay consists of a second garage door, built in the same style as that in the first bay, with three rows of horizontal windows. West of the third bay are two steel casement windows, which are glazed in twelve horizontal panels, four-beside-four-beside-four. The brick lintels and sills of both windows are laid in the soldier course style. The west elevation of the building is not visible, as a single story metal shed is not original to the building, having been added at a later date. The garage building abuts the adjoining lot, but the presence of another structure immediately adjacent to the garage building makes the north elevation also not visible. One feature of the north elevation is visible, however, from the south elevation – the square, brick chimney, constructed in the same common bond pattern as the building itself.

The interior of the garage consists of concrete flooring throughout the building. The interior is divided into two working spaces, one behind each garage door. A locker room serves a walkway between the two garage spaces. The west working space is significantly larger than the east working space. Two small rooms are located in the northeast

corner of the west working space. Each room contains several wood cubbies. Outside the rooms, a steel staircase leads up to a small second-story, which is not visible from the outside of the building. In the second working space, a steel staircase in the northwest corner leads to a small storage area, with a wood, two-paneled door labeled “Records Room.” The ceilings in both rooms consist of exposed steel bowstring roof trusses.

The drill tower is located in the northwest corner of the site. It is a six-story structure made of reinforced concrete and steel, with a concrete foundation and a flat, concrete roof. Above the first level its corners feature a slight relief. The main entrance is located on the east elevation of the building. The recessed wood two-paneled door contains a decorative, diamond pattern steel and glass transom. Missing from above the door are the bronze letters, which once read “Columbia Drill Tower.” To the north of the entrance is a bronze standpipe siamese connection. The second to sixth stories of the east elevation each contain two unglazed window bays. The first story of the north elevation incorporates one steel casement window, which is glazed in three horizontal panels. An external steel staircase stretches from the second to sixth stories. The first story of the west elevation has a single steel awning window, which is glazed in four horizontal panels. The other stories on the west elevation have a plain, smooth surface with horizontal expansion joints visible. The south elevation has two unglazed windows on each story, from the second to the sixth. There are some decorative details repeated on each elevation. The upper corners of the first-story are marked by a stylized Greek key band, typical of the Moderne style. The pattern, however, is not continuous around the tower. Rather, the pattern extends approximately three feet from each corner of the tower. The top of the tower on each elevation is punctuated with identical, stylized ornamentation suggestive of the triglyph of classical architectural antiquity, all rendered in concrete.

The three buildings of the Columbia Central Fire Station are connected by a concrete yard.

The Columbia Central Fire Station is an excellent example of the work of the well-known Columbia architect, Heyward Singley. Little or no alterations, major or minor, have occurred to any of the three buildings.

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Statement of Significance

The Columbia Central Fire Station, at 1001 Senate Street in Columbia, is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C, as it is an excellent example of Moderne architecture of the early 1950s and for its assocation with noted South Carolina architect Heyward S. Singley. Singley designed several fire stations in Columbia between 1940 and 1954, including the North Columbia Fire Station No. 7 at 2622 North Main Street, listed in the National Register , and the Harden Street Substation at 1901 Harden Street, previously listed in the National Register on 28 September 2005.

The Columbia Central Fire Station is not only the largest but also the most architecturally distinctive of Heyward S. Singley's designs for fire stations in Columbia. A fine example of the Moderne/International style, with its relative lack of ornamentation, flat roof, and horizontal bands of windows, it occupies a prominent place in the cityscape on Senate Street, just west of the South Carolina State House Complex and just east of the Congaree Vista.

Historical Background and Significance

During the nineteenth century, the city of Columbia relied on volunteer firefighting companies. There were both black and white volunteer firefighting companies in Columbia, but in 1892 the black companies disbanded. Some African Americans transferred to white companies, serving as drivers.[1] In 1903 the city disbanded all volunteer fire companies and established the Columbia Fire Department, under the direction of Chief William J. May.[2] The newly established department hired forty men from the volunteer companies as well as six African American drivers.[3] Four companies formed the early fire department: the Palmetto State Fire Engine Company No. 2 at 1213 Blanding Street; the Phoenix Hook and Ladder Company at 1601 Assembly Street; the Independent Steam Fire Engine Company No. 1 at 1129 Washington Street and the Columbia Steam Engine Company No. 3 at 914 Main Street.[4] In 1904 a station was constructed at 1313 Sumter Street. The Independent Steam Fire Engine Company was relocated to this new site and renamed Engine Company No. 1.[5] In 1910 the Columbia Fire Department began using motorized vehicles and on October 5, 1916 they eliminated the use of all horse drawn trucks altogether. The shift meant those African Americans who had previously served as drivers were forced to fill menial jobs, such as janitorial work, if they wanted to remain on the payroll. In 1924, Archie McCraney Marsh became the new Fire Chief of the department.[6] In 1936, the entire department was relocated to the 1313 Sumter Street station.

[1] John D. Jansen, Jr., *Going to Blazes: A 200-year Illustrated History of the Columbia, South Carolina, Fire and Rescue Service* (Evansville, IN: M.T. Publishing, 2005), 26.
[2] Darrick Lamont Hart, "Overcoming the Flames of Prejudice: The Integration of the Columbia Fire Department, Columbia, South Carolina, 1948-1969" (M.A. Thesis, University of South Carolina, 2000), 11.
[3] Jansen, *Going to Blazes,* 28.
[4] Jansen, *Going to Blazes,* 30.
[5] Jansen, *Going to Blazes,* 44.
[6] Jansen, *Going to Blazes,* 38.

The first fire station built in Columbia after the consolidation of the Columbia Fire Department in 1936 was Columbia Fire Station No. 9, built in 1943 at 2847 Devine Street, in the Shandon neighborhood. Since demolished, it was designed by Heyward S. Singley, who soon became the sole architect for Columbia fire stations from 1940 to 1952.

Two Singley-designed Columbia fire stations have already been listed in the National Register: North Columbia Fire Station No. 7 (1948), at 2622 North Main Street in Columbia, listed 1 June 2005, and Harden Street Substation (1953), at 1901 Harden Street in Columbia, listed 28 September 2005.

Singley (1902-1959), a prominent Columbia architect, was best known for designing public buildings, most notably National Guard armories, fire stations, and schools.

He designed thirty-four National Guard armories in South Carolina between 1939 and 1954, in the period just before and during World War II and in the first years of the Cold War. Two Singley-designed armories have already been listed in the National Register: The Fort Mill Armory (1939), at Elliott and Unity Streets in Fort Mill, York County, listed 11 June 1992, and the Hartsville Armory (1940), at 539 West Carolina Avenue in Hartsville, Darlington County, listed 8 September 1994.

Other notable armories designed by Singley, most of them built in 1939-1940, include those in Abbeville, Abbeville County; Anderson, Anderson County; Bennettsville, Marlboro County; Clinton, Laurens County; Columbia, Richland County; Darlington, Darlington County; Dillon, Dillon County, Easley, Pickens County, Florence, Florence County; Greenville, Greenville County; Greer, Greenville County; Jefferson, Chesterfield County; Kingstree, Williamsburg County; Lancaster, Lancaster County; Lockhart, Union County; Lyman, Spartanburg County; Marion, Marion County; Orangeburg, Orangeburg County; Rock Hill, York County; Spartanburg, Spartanburg County; Sumter, Sumter County; Timmonsville, Florence County; Walterboro, Colleton County; Union, Union County; West Columbia, Lexington County; and Winnsboro, Fairfield County.[7]

His designs for public schools include the Irmo High School (1935) in Lexington County; Beaufort Grammar School (1941) in Beaufort County; Lobeco Grammar School (1948) in Beaufort County; Gaffney Grammar School (1951) in Cherokee County; Robert Smalls High School (1953) in Beaufort County; and the D.W. Daniel High School (1954) in Pickens County.[8]

Singley was born in Prosperity, in Newberry County, 1902. In 1924, he graduated from the School of Architecture at Clemson University. He opened an office in Columbia in 1937. From 1938 to 1940, he served as Secretary-Treasurer of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He served as president of the chapter from 1941

[7] Heyward S. Singley Commission List, Undated but ca. 1954, in Heyward S. Singley File, Subject Files, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia; "Twenty-Three South Carolina Places Get Armories Like This," *The State* (Columbia, S.C.), 26 November 1939. Dates given in Singley's commission list are commission dates and may not reflect actual construction dates.

[8] Heyward S. Singley Commission List.

to 1945. Singley was also a member of the South Carolina State Board of Architectural Examiners from 1943 to 1954 and was chairman from 1951 to 1954.[9]

In 1949 the city began to plan a more modern and efficient fire department headquarters. In May of that year, R.E. Ebert sold a 104-foot by 104-foot lot on Park and Senate Streets to the city of Columbia for $20,000 and Marshall T. Durham sold an adjacent lot, 104 feet by 208 feet, to the city for $26,000.[10] The site was selected to protect the wholesale district and Main Street [retail] and also served the ancillary purpose of moving the headquarters from the congested and outdated 1313 Sumter Street station.[11] The new station was the largest building project in the history of the Columbia Fire Department. Architect Heyward Singley claimed the new station would be "the most modern and without a doubt the best in the entire country."[12]

The station was certainly the largest to be built in the state of South Carolina. The two-story building held eight electronically operated steel doors. Each bay held a truck for each company housed in the station. It was also the most technologically advanced fire station in the state and arguably the country. The control room served as the brains of the entire department. It was a round shaped, glass enclosed, sound proof room equipped with a radio, telephones, inter-communicational phones, switch board, vocal alarm system microphone, and an intersection light and siren switch panel. This traffic light operating system was installed to control all the traffic lights in the city, allowing for additional safety for the fire equipment and motorists. An automatic recording system was created, which recorded words from phoned in reports of fires and enabled the station to log and verify locations of fire. A darkroom was built in the station for the department's photographer. Overall the station cost the city nearly a quarter of a million dollars [$247,140.89].

On December 27, 1950 the fire department moved into its new headquarters.[13] In 1951, the city decided to build a drill tower in an adjacent lot. The lot was purchased for $15,150. Heyward Singley designed the tower, which itself cost $35,594.

[9] 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: S.C. Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 1963), 138-140 .
[10] "Contracts For Fire Station Site Signed," *The State,* May 20, 1949.
[11] "New Fire Station, Senate at Park, Almost Assured," *The State,* May 19, 1949.
[12] "New Fire Station," *The State,* November 3, 1949.
[13] "Fire Department Moves Into New Headquarters," *The State,* December 25, 1950

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The Central Fire Station served as the Columbia Fire Department's Headquarters until 1995, when it was abandoned for a new facility at 1800 Laurel Street. During the last decade of its occupation, the station fell into disrepair. Firefighters that worked and lived in the station voiced concerns that the building was unsanitary and unsafe.[14] The new station at Laurel Street cost over $3 million to build. The new structure was built in a more central location to the city, as Columbia had greatly expanded since the Senate Street station was constructed. The Laurel Street station is smaller than the old headquarters. In addition to creating a more modern and efficient facility, the new headquarters housed a museum dedicated to the history of the fire department in Columbia.[15]

The station and drill tower sat empty for over a decade. Some developers in the city lobbied to have the structures torn down, arguing the land was more valuable than the buildings on it. Plans were announced in 2005 to turn the land into a parking lot for a newly constructed hotel in the Congaree Vista.[16] The Columbia City Council decided, however, not to raze the buildings, as they decided the lot was no longer needed for hotel parking.[17] Many in the community argued the fire station was not attractive and too young to be preserved. Several historic preservation-minded organizations joined forces to oppose demolition of the station. The Historic Columbia Foundation recommended that the station be added to the registry of city landmarks. [18]In 2006, the city council decided to sell the Central Fire Station. The council added criteria to its bidding process which allowed for historic preservation in the proposed plans for the property.[19]

[14] "Firefighters Throw Party at New Digs" *The State*, March 14, 1996.
[15] "Columbia Building Fire Station Laurel, Barnwell Site to House Headquarters" *The State,* March 11, 1993.
[16] "Columbia Feeling Tension Between Preserving Past, Building For Future" *The State,* August 30, 2005.
[17] "City Doesn't Need to Raze Fire Station" *The State*, August 23, 2005.
[18] "3 Groups Join Fight to Save Old Fire Station" *The State,* March 24, 2005.
[19] Interview with Tom Prioreschi, 30 November 2007.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Columbia Central Fire Station is shown as the bold black line on the accompanying Richland County, South Carolina, GIS map, with the properties marked “Main Building,” “Garage Building,” and “Tower.”

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Columbia Central Fire Station, including the main building, the garage, and the fire tower.

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

Name of Property: Columbia Central Fire Station
Location of Property: 1001 Senate Street, Columbia
Richland County, South Carolina
Location of Original
Digital Files: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Main Building, South Elevation
   Photographer: Morgen Young
   Date of Photograph: September 2007

2. Historic Photograph of Main Building, South Elevation
   Photographer: Unknown
   Date of Photograph: 1951

3. Historic Photograph of Main Building, South Elevation
   Photographer: Unknown
   Date of Photograph: 1951

4. Main Building, South and West Elevations
   Photographer: Morgen Young
   Date of Photograph: September 2007

5. Main Building, East Elevation
   Photographer: Morgen Young
   Date of Photograph: September 2007

6. Main Building, North Elevation
   Photographer: Morgen Young
   Date of Photograph: September 2007

7. Main Building, North Elevation
   Photographer: Morgen Young
   Date of Photograph: September 2007

8. Main Building, First Floor Interior
   Photographer: Morgen Young
   Date of Photograph: September 2007

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9. Main Building, Second Floor Interior
   Photographer: Morgen Young
   Date of Photograph: September 2007

10. Historic Photograph of Main Building, Second Floor Interior
    Photographer: Unknown
    Date of Photograph: May 1951

11. Garage Building, South Elevation
    Photographer: Morgen Young
    Date of Photograph: September 2007

12. Garage Building, South Elevation
    Photographer: Morgen Young
    Date of Photograph: September 2007

13. Drill Tower, South and East Elevations
    Photographer: Morgen Young
    Date of Photograph: September 2007

14. Drill Tower, North and West Elevations
    Photographer: Morgen Young
    Date of Photograph: September 2007

15. Historic Photograph of Drill Tower, South Elevation
    Photographer: Unknown
    Date of Photograph: April 1955