

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station #1

Other names/site number: Central Fire Station

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 303 W. Center

City or town: Fayetteville State: Arkansas County: Washington

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

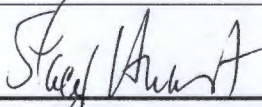
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

|                                                                                                                                |                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Signature of certifying official/Title: | <u>4-3-15</u><br>Date                               |
| <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u><br>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government                           |                                                     |
| In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.                                            |                                                     |
| Signature of commenting official:                                                                                              | Date                                                |
| Title :                                                                                                                        | State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government |

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing      | Noncontributing   |            |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <u>1</u>          | <u>          </u> | buildings  |
| <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | sites      |
| <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | structures |
| <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | objects    |
| <u>1</u>          | <u>          </u> | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register           

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: fire station

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: fire station

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: mid-century modern

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Concrete, Corrugated aluminum

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

The Fayetteville Fire Station #1 is an excellent example of a Mid-Century Modern Fire Station constructed in Fayetteville, Arkansas, between 1963- 1964. While a fine example of this type of modern design and construction, it also relays the story of the mid-century expansion of the City of Fayetteville in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Politics/Government. Located in Fayetteville, Arkansas, the Fayetteville Fire Station #1 was one of three mid-century fire stations designed by well-known local architect T.E. Shelton between 1962 and 1964. This large, two-story, brick building with large protruding brick piers, creating seven bays, was built in 1963. The other two fire stations designed and built as part of the citywide bond issue still remain. Fire station #3, located at Drake Field retains a high level of integrity while the third fire station associated with the bond issue of 1962, at 1020 East Harold Street, has had a large compatible addition added to the west elevation and the extension of cantilevered horizontal bands across the former fire truck bays.

The site on which Fire Station No. 1 is located generally set on the southwest corner of Center Street and Locust Avenue. Surrounding the fire station on the north side is Center Street. Located to the east side of the fire station is Locust Avenue. To the south is a small nondescript

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stone building that once housed a small business and apartment. While to the west is a small residential neighborhood that remains in downtown Fayetteville. Fire Station No. 1 offers a remarkable contrast to the other buildings, which are older residential homes.

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**Narrative Description**

**Front Façade (North Elevation)**

The front façade of Fayetteville Fire Station No. 1 faces north and is visually broken into seven bays. The seven bays are broken up by protruding brick, rectangular piers, with the two outside bays being identical and four fire truck bays being identical, leaving only the largest bay unlike any other. The northeast bay and northwest bay (Bays 1 and 7) of the fire station have tall, narrow, identical first and second story bays. The first floor bay consists of a floor to ceiling tall, narrow, window that stops at the second floor. The second floor of this bay, also has a tall, narrow window that starts about two feet from the floor and extends up to the ceiling. Bays 3-6 are also identical and are broken up by the protruding brick, rectangular piers. Bays 3-6 are home to the fire apparatuses, including trucks, engines and other service devices. Each of the four bays has a large garage door. Located above the garage door is a small rectangular panel covered in stucco that ends at the beginning of the second floor. The second story of these bays contain at three to four foot brick wall with a large stationary window broken up into three lights. Located above the window is another three foot high brick wall capped with metal trim. All brick work on non-recessed brick, on the entire building, is set as a running or stretcher bond pattern, while all brick located within recessed areas, on the entire building, is set using a stacked bond pattern,

The last bay, Bay 2 is larger and more detailed than the other six. The first floor of bay 2 is broken into fifteen smaller bays, each separated by smaller one story brick, rectangular piers. The first and the fifteenth bays are large with the first bay containing the fire stations main pedestrian entrance, with a glass transom above, while the fifteenth bay contains only brick fenestration. Bays 2-13 are all identical and contain a floor to ceiling window which stop at the beginning of the second floor. Other ornamentation located on the north elevation is the cantilevered awnings over window and door openings.

The first cantilevered awning starts at the end of Bay 2 and wraps across all of Bay 1 and 2 and terminates shortly after coming onto the east elevation. This cantilevered awning is clad on the sides with ribbed corrugated aluminum, and underneath with stucco. The awning actually is set just below the floor line of the second story, and across over and partially below where the tall, narrow windows terminate into the second story floor. The band or awning actually extends beyond and over the rectangular pier and is uninterrupted. Located on top of this section of banding or awning, are four florescent lights, which illuminate the mid-century lettering "Fayetteville Fire Department." The second horizontal band starts out as a corrugated aluminum band over the top of the windows in Bays 1 and 2, but protrudes or cantilevers out over Bays 3-7. However unlike the first band or awning the band is terminated in the first and second pier, before extending uninterrupted across the other bays. Centrally located above this awning or banding is another florescent light illuminating the lettering "Station No. 1." The third horizontal

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band or cantilevered awning is located above the windows on the second story and extends the length of the elevation. However, every time the band or awning extends to one of the large rectangular piers the band is terminated and picks up the line again on the other side of the pier.

### **East Elevation**

The east elevation also contains little ornamentation with the exception of window placements and recessed brick. Moving right to left across the elevation there is a small area of brick before the brick becomes recessed with three stationary windows located with that recessed area. The series of three windows is illustrated through the use of a single stationary window with a brick sill followed by a small band of brick before coming to two adjacent stationary windows with brick sills and the termination of the recessed area. The small band of brick is accented by the use of a different colored brick similar to the piers on the north elevation. Located between this recessed area and the next recessed area is a large blank brick wall with only two small louvered vents. The second recessed area contains a small rectangular window raised higher in the recessed area than the other first floor windows. With the termination of the recesses area there is another blank brick wall area before coming to a third recessed brick area. This recessed area is similar in size to the second recessed area, with the only difference being the size of the window in the recessed area. This recessed area is then terminated followed by another blank brick wall space. The fourth recessed brick area looks as though it once housed another truck or engine bay that has been infilled with a framed structure clad in wood and painted to blend in with the rest of the building. Within the infilled area there is a glass entrance door with a small metal awning above the entrance and two single-hung windows located to the left of the door before the recessed area is terminated once again. Following the termination of the recessed area, there is another small blank brick wall space before the elevation is terminated the corner. The second story follows the first floor through the use of the four recessed areas. The first recessed area on the second floor also contains two stationary windows. Within the second and third recessed areas, there is only a single small rectangular window with brick sill in each of those recessed areas. The fourth recessed area also contains two stationary windows. However, unlike the first story, located to the left of the last recessed bay there is a steel fire door, steel balcony and metal ladder to provide access to the roof. All of the windows on the first and second story are all aligned by the top of each of the windows.

### **South Elevation**

The south elevation, like the east elevation, contains windows that are all set in a recessed brick area. All locations of first floor windows also contain a corresponding second floor stationary window in the recessed brick area. Moving right to left across the elevation there is a small blank brick space located in the southeast corner before coming to a recessed brick area, with a corresponding stationary window. All of the recessed areas terminated at the top of the second floor window. To the left of the recessed area, there is a small louvered vent located on the right side of the large blank brick wall space. To the left of the large blank wall space is another recessed brick area with two, four pane, center casement windows located within the recessed area. The casement windows have a stationary pane on the top and bottom, while the center two

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panes pivot in an awning fashion. This casement window is one of the few original windows retained on the building. To the left of the recessed area, there is a large garage door bay, followed by a small steel, pedestrian entrance door to the left of the garage door. Located above and to the left of the pedestrian door, there is another small louvered vent. To the left of the louvered vent is another recessed area with similar casement windows described earlier. Located above and slightly to the left of the casement window, outside of the recessed area, there is a large blower exhaust vent with a tall metal stack that extends up above the parapet roof line. To the left of the exhaust vent, on the first floor, there is another large garage door bay. Located above the garage door bay on the second floor there is a steel entry door, steel balcony with railing and metal ladder to provide access both to the roof and the ground level. The ladder is directly adjacent to the left of the large garage door.

Another detail not already described about the second story is the location of a small window located to the right of the third recessed area. The top of the small window is in line with the top of the other windows on the second floor and is located above the small louvered vent found between the pedestrian entranceway and the third recessed area. One other piece of ornamentation is the location of the guttering system. There are four scuppers evenly spaced across the south elevation leading from the parapet wall. The guttering system includes the scupper, leader head, and downspouts that extend from the second floor down to ground level.

### **West Elevation**

The west elevation, like the south and east elevations, contains windows that are all set in a recessed brick area. All locations of first floor windows and door, also contain a corresponding second floor stationary window in the recessed brick area. Moving right to left across the elevation there is a small blank brick space located in the southwest corner before coming to the first recessed brick area, with two corresponding casement windows described previously. All of the recessed areas terminate at the top of the second floor windows. To the left of the recessed area is another blank brick wall, and then a smaller second recessed area with a casement window described previously. To the left of the recessed area is another blank wall space. To the left of the blank wall space there is a third recessed area, with a steel pedestrian entrance door. To the left of this third recessed area is another large blank wall space before coming to a larger recessed area similar to the first recessed area described on this elevation.

### **Integrity**

Though this building has remained occupied, the building retains a great amount of integrity; only two areas of the building have been changed over the last 51 years. The first change that has taken place is the replacement of approximately 80% of the casement windows with stationary windows. The other change that has occurred is the replacement of a single garage door with a pedestrian doorway. Though these changes have taken place, they do not negatively affect or impact the use or significance of the fire station to the City of Fayetteville.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1962-1965

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

d.1963

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

T. Ewing Shelton, Architect

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

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The Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station No. 1 in Fayetteville, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion A** for its significance in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Politics/Government. The Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station No. 1 is a well-preserved example of a two-story Mid-Century Modern Fire Station in Fayetteville, Arkansas, constructed as part of a city wide development plan, as the City of Fayetteville continued to grow following the end of World War II. This building provides an outstanding example of Mid-Century Modern construction in Northwest Arkansas. Though the fire station exhibits features of the Mid-Century design, the real significance lies in the community planning and development and government and politics side of its construction. Prior to the 1940s, "the university's enrollment formed less than five percent of the population."<sup>1</sup> That number would nearly double between 1940 and 1950, as the student population grew to 4,100. The population of the student body alone would continue to grow through the 1970s, when the student population hit 12,000. This tremendous increase in student population is one of the greatest reasons for the location of two of the three fire stations built in 1963. The other reason is the increase in the population and the expansion of the city through the graduation of the students from the University of Arkansas that stayed to work in the expanding manufacturing business that was sweeping through Fayetteville throughout the middle of the 1900s. Though the city leaders anticipated this new growth, in the city's first master plan from 1945, many of the development plans remained idle until the 1960s. Fayetteville Fire Station #1 was one of three fire stations constructed in Fayetteville, as part of a bond proposal sent to the voters in 1962.<sup>2</sup> The new fire stations reflected the new regional vitality, and were built to expand safety services to the City of Fayetteville, University of Arkansas and Drake Field (Fayetteville Executive Airport).

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Fayetteville was founded in 1828 along with its surrounding Washington County, which became the seventeenth Arkansas County when it was official formed on October 17, 1828.<sup>3</sup> For years the industry of Fayetteville was mixed. The diverse economy included produce packing, lumbering and wagon production.<sup>4</sup> Just like Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas, began to grow following the end of the American Civil War. One of the reasons for its increase in population was the creation of the Arkansas Industrial University, now the University of

<sup>1</sup> Shiloh Museum, *The History of Washington County Arkansas* (Springdale, Arkansas: Shiloh Museum, 1989), 86-87.

<sup>2</sup> "Answers To Your Questions About the City Bond Issues," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 1962 November 1, 1 and 7.

<sup>3</sup> Shiloh Museum, *The History of Washington County Arkansas* (Springdale, Arkansas: Shiloh Museum, 1989), 86-87.

<sup>4</sup> William S. Campbell, *One Hundred Years of Fayetteville: 1828-1928* (Jefferson City: Journal of Marian Tebbetts Baner 1928; reprint Fayetteville: Washington County Historical Society, 1977), 37-43 (page citations are to the reprint edition).

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Arkansas in 1871.<sup>5</sup> The school would come to be an important part of the local economy in Fayetteville and the surrounding area.

As the City of Fayetteville and the University continued to expand and grow, farming, especially fruit, remained an integral part of the lives of the residents of Washington County and Fayetteville, Arkansas. As the county population increased steadily between 1870 and 1900, so did farm production in Washington County. As the population of Washington County nearly doubled between 1870 and 1900 from 17,266 to 34,000 residents, farm production and improved farmland on the other hand, nearly tripled in the same time period from 73,145 acres in 1870 to 238,000 farmable acres in 1900.<sup>6</sup> However, just like the farming industry in the area, those industries that are reliant on farming also were expanding in the region. It is noted that between 1939 and 1967, the number of manufacturing facilities rose from 33 to 93 and employment at this facilities rose from 500 to 7,000 workers. Most of these manufacturing jobs were located in industries directly associated with food processing, especially poultry.

Yet, even as the population and the industries of Fayetteville and the surrounding area grew, the Fayetteville Fire Department remained stagnant and continued to have trouble recruiting firefighters through the 1970s. Still just like most facets of the American culture, firefighting would have to fight the pendulum of a U.S. depression, a World War, and an economy working to promote a higher education not yet seen in the firefighting community.

For Fayetteville, the need for a fire department was not met until the 1870s. However, by 1874, the Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department was “disbanded due to lack of encouragement of [*sic*] the city.”<sup>7</sup> Consequently, the lack of a fire department did not last long, because by 1897 it is reported that the fire department purchased a “fire wagon” and by 1917 purchased its first fire truck.<sup>8</sup> Still by the 1970s, the fire department was having trouble recruiting volunteers even when being compensated for their time. It is noted that the worst response time took place when most men worked, therefore the Fire Chief and the City saw the need to replace volunteers with career firefighters as the volunteers retired.<sup>9</sup>

Though the City of Fayetteville experienced the ebb and flow of the early 1900s, they were not unique to the situation, as other cities and town shared their experience. It is noted that in big cities they had to replace their volunteer firefighters with full-time, paid staff, when the volunteer firefighters, “in spite of their gratuitous service, became far too costly for growing cities.”<sup>10</sup> The idea of being too costly was not in dollars and cents, paid for trucks and staff, but in the loss of property due to fires. Cities of all sizes developed their own firefighting problems including

<sup>5</sup> John H. Reynolds and David Y. Thomas, *History of the University of Arkansas* (University of Arkansas: Fayetteville, 1910), 48.

<sup>6</sup> Shiloh Museum, 227.

<sup>7</sup> “History of the Fire Department,”

[http://www.accessfayetteville.org/government/fire/history\\_of\\_the\\_fire\\_department/index.cfm](http://www.accessfayetteville.org/government/fire/history_of_the_fire_department/index.cfm). (Accessed on 6 January 2015.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> John Morris, *Fires and Firefighters* (New York: Bramhall House, 1955), 357.

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congested areas, frequency of fires, and other situations that slow the ability of getting to a fire from the station. This greatly affected the volunteers as the need to leave their place of employment, get to the fire station and then travel to the fire especially with bigger, faster, and more powerful firefighting apparatuses.

These situations mentioned above all played into the planning and develop of new fire stations in the City of Fayetteville starting as early as 1945 with the first master plan. As the City of Fayetteville set out to begin the master plan for the city, they invited the City Councilmen, City Planning Board, the Extension Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and others to a special session to discussion the two plans presented and send one of the plans to L.A. Henry, an expert planner, in Little Rock for "proper coordination." As part of one of the plans presented to the larger gathering, the need for a fire station in the northwest portion of the city was expressed.<sup>11</sup> Though the plan was accepted in 1945, it was largely an unused document until 1961 when it was "dusted off and updated with an eye toward application for federal planning and urban renewal funds."<sup>12</sup> Like the 1945 Master Plan, the 1961 updated plan was rarely used due to day-to-day operations.<sup>13</sup>

With a city wide plan in the hands of city planners from 1945 and 1961, the wheel of progress moved slowly but effectively in retrospect. Though no fire station was built in the northwest section of Fayetteville, the idea was not wasted. As in any city wide planning projects, planners have to take what they are seen developing and create the master plan off what they feel will continue to happen in the city over the next 20-30 years. In the case of Fayetteville, those involved with the initial 1945 plan felt like the northwest section of the city would grow given the enlargement of the University of Arkansas both academically and through development just north of the campus because of the campus.

Consequently, in the nearly 20 years since the plan's creation in 1945, which called for the fire station in the northwest section of the city, the development of the city gradually moved away from that area. The new development trend focused more to the northeast and southeast sections of town along U.S. Highway 71 for new fire stations, while expanding in the downtown region of the city. Therefore, in November of 1962, the city called for a vote to issue bonds to alleviate the stress on the fire department while also voting on bonds for a city nursing home and police station/jail/court building.

The architect hired to help in creating plans for the buildings under consideration as part of the bond issues, was local Fayetteville Architect T. Ewing Shelton. Thayer Ewing Shelton was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 1899 to farming parents and spent his early years working the farm and managing his family's acreage. Deeds and ads from the 1920s show that Shelton spent some time selling woodlots to help his family make a living.<sup>14</sup> Shelton went on to become an engineer

<sup>11</sup> "Coordination of City Plans is Projected," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 20 April 1945, 1.

<sup>12</sup> "The Big Plan," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 31 May 1945, 3.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> "Wood for Sale," *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, 12 November 1921, 2.

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and worked in home construction in Oklahoma and Texas, though it is unknown if he received a degree in engineering or architecture. What is known is that Shelton was active with the Works Progress Administration, overseeing the construction and renovation of several Arkansas courthouses during the depression, including the Baxter County Courthouse in Mountain Home, Arkansas, and the Franklin County Courthouse in Ozark, Arkansas. Following World War II, Shelton moved back to Fayetteville and opened an office in the First National Bank building on Dickson Street. During his time as an architect in Northwest Arkansas, Shelton worked mainly on public projects including city and county buildings.

However, T. Ewing Shelton was best and most widely known for his designs for Maximlite schools. The patent date for his design is July 31, 1956.<sup>15</sup> By this time there were Maximlite schools constructed and in use in several states, the first of which was built in Eureka Springs in northwest Arkansas in 1954. Shelton went on to build schools in more than twenty states, franchising out his designs to local architects who worked under the name of Maximlite Schools. The states with the most Maximlite schools are found in the Midwest; in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. The farthest reaches of Maximlite design extended to Esparto, California; Bowdoin, Maine; and Boyle, Alberta, Canada. While the reach of Maximlite Schools was quite large, like many mid-century school design movements it was short-lived, with the last Maximlite schools built in the early 1960s. Following his time constructing Maximlite schools, he returned to designing public buildings including all of the buildings that fell under the 1962 bond issue.

As part of the bond that was being voted on, on November 6, 1962, it called for \$300,000 for “the sites for and the construction and equipment of buildings for the housing of firefighting apparatus, and the purchase of the firefighting apparatus.”<sup>16</sup> At the time of the vote on the bond the current fire station was already up for sale. It also noted that the Central fire station on Block Street,

“was inadequate in size to contain the firefighting equipment urgently needed by the City....The central fire station (under proposal), located near the center of town, will contain equipment for fire protection for that area plus single unit apparatus that will have special uses for the entire city. One Unit will be an aerial ladder. As buildings continue to be built higher, this becomes more and more necessary. Another unit will be a rescue unit completely equipped to afford on-the-spot emergency rescue wherever needed.”<sup>17</sup>

Consequently, the vote on November 6, 1962, allowed for all three of the bond issues to pass including the three fire stations, city police/jail/court, and the convalescent/nursing home

<sup>15</sup> Shelton, T. Ewing. School Building. US Patent 2,756,584, filed August 2, 1952, and issued July 31, 1956.

<sup>16</sup> “Answers to Your Questions About the City Bond Issues,” *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 1 November 1962, 7.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

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addition to the City Hospital.<sup>18</sup> Even with all of the advertising that went on to promote the bond issues, some of the strongest arguments for the bond came through the City's explanation of financial perks to the citizens. One of the main arguments presented to the votes was that the construction of these fire stations would help in adjusting the fire insurance rate throughout the city by maintaining or increasing the towns fire classification, all while keeping the expansion of the city in mind while setting the fire insurance rate.<sup>19</sup>

With the voter's approval of the bond issues on November 6, 1962, it was not until November 24, 1962, that City Council began taking bids on the sale of bonds,<sup>20</sup> and the City Council approving the bond sale only two weeks later.<sup>21</sup>

It would be nearly a month and a half before the City Council voted to settle the location of the Central Fire Station, or Fire Station No. 1, when they voted to approve the purchase of two pieces of property located at the intersection of Locust and Center Streets.<sup>22</sup> The purchase of the property would be partially funded from the sale of the old Central Fire Station on Block Street, \$25,000, and only about \$11,000 would be used from the bond money. At the time of the vote on the purchase of the property, a few councilmen were still advocating for the city to purchase a vacant parking lot and built on that location. However, at the insistence of Mayor Guy Brown and Fire Chief Burl Skelton, the vote on the corner lot at Locust and Center was cast and passed by the Council.<sup>23</sup>

With the location of the Fire Station settled, the bids for the construction project were finally advertised by March 1963. In the request for bids send out by the city, it called for a single bid for all three of the fire stations that were accepted as part of the bond issue. Upon unsealing the bids on April 26, 1963, the council deferred action on the bids due to a dispute on the bid until May 9.<sup>24</sup> At the City Council meeting on May 9, 1963, the city approved the bid by Shirley Construction Company, of Fayetteville, for the Central Fire Station. Shirley's proposed bid totaled \$145,737, with the next lowest bidder being Bengal Construction of Fayetteville with a bid of \$146,400.<sup>25</sup>

Though the bids approved for Shirley Construction Company, the time in which they had to construct the building was still up for debate.<sup>26</sup> In an article from May 10, 1963, it stated

<sup>18</sup> "Voters Approve 3 Bind Issues," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 7 November 1962, 1.

<sup>19</sup> "Answers to Your Questions About the City Bond Issues," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 1 November 1962, 7.

<sup>20</sup> "Council to Accept Bids on Municipal Binds Monday," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 7 November 1962, 1.

<sup>21</sup> "Council Okays Sale of Bonds to Finance New City Facilities," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 5 December 1962.

<sup>22</sup> The corner lot was owned by the Eva Johnson Estate and the lot just to the west of the corner lot was owned by Bob White. The city paid \$18,500 to the Eva Johnson Estate and \$17,500 to Bob White. ("Purchase of Property For New Central Fire Station Approved," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 29 January 1963, 1.)

<sup>23</sup> "Purchase of Property For New Central Fire Station Approved," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 29 January 1963, 1.

<sup>24</sup> Though the dispute is noted in the newspaper article, at no point does it ever say what the dispute was over.

("Council Defers Action on Fire Station Bids," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 1 May 1963, 1.)

<sup>25</sup> "City Council Accepts Bids on New Police, Fire Station." *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 10 May 1963, 1.

<sup>26</sup> With the length of time still under debated for the Central Fire Station downtown, the bids for the two wing stations were still out. The contracts for the other two wing stations, one in northern Fayetteville off Stubblefield

Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station #1

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construction would be complete in 240 days while only four days later the paper reports that the construction crew only had 170 days to construct the fire station. With the construction about to begin on the Central Fire Station, editorials in the *Northwest Arkansas Times*, were already boasting about the protection they will have due to the construction of these three stations. It states...

“It won’t be long before all are finished and Fayetteville firemen will be in a better position to protect the city from the danger of destructive flames.

For many years this city has boasted a fine record of fire protection. The fire department has been built up, with more men and added equipment, over the past few years particularly, and a training program has been maintained both of regular staff and the many volunteers who keep fire damage at a minimum.

The additions of the new central fire station and two “wing” centers, north and south, will enable the record to be maintained- and improved.”<sup>27</sup>

From June 1963 through February 1964, construction on all of the projects including the Central Fire Station was in full swing. It was stated in February 1964 that the Police Station and the Central Fire Station were nearing completion,<sup>28</sup> yet three months later in July 1964 the same argument was made.<sup>29</sup> Even while it was nearing completion, the final specifications were being discussed with the public. The New Central Fire Station would have “accommodations for about 30 men and space for about 4-6 trucks in its apparatus room.”<sup>30</sup> The new 15,000 square foot Central Fire Station would also provide enough room for “sleeping and cooking facilities, a large meeting room, a hose storage room, and a dispatcher’s office.”<sup>31</sup> The contractor on the site, Odgen Shirley, of Shirley Constructions, was optimistic when he stated if bad weather held off they could have the Central Station completed in 20-30 days.<sup>32</sup> Bad weather must have remained in the area because by July the Central Fire Station was still being completed while the two “wing” centers were completed and turned over to the city, though they were not occupied.<sup>33</sup>

Once the final touches were completed on the Central Fire Station, it had already taken a year and a half to complete the project from start to finish. Yet, the transfer of the

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Road ( now Harold St. ) and one located along US Highway 71 at the north end of Drake Field, were finally let by June 7, 1963. The contract was let to Tune Construction of Fayetteville, at a low bid of \$69,569. It was \$1,958 lower than the next low bid by Shirley Construction. With these contracts let all of the projects considered under the original bond proposal were finally under contract. (“Fire Station Contracts Let,” *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 7 June 1963, 1.)

<sup>27</sup> “For More Protection,” *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 8 June 1963, 1.

<sup>28</sup> “City’s Fire, Police Buildings Near Completion,” *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 17 February 1964, 8.

<sup>29</sup> “Lafayette We are Here: City Paving Job Almost Done,” *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 3 July 1964, 1.

<sup>30</sup> “City’s Fire, Police Buildings Near Completion,” *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 17 February 1964, 8.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> “Lafayette We are Here: City Paving Job Almost Done,” *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 3 July 1964, 1.

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equipment from the fire station on Block Street to the new Central Fire Station took less time than finding a parking spot to view the new station. It took three minutes to transfer all trucks and crews from the old building, since most of the equipment was already installed under the construction contract.<sup>34</sup>

In order to allow for public viewing of the new fire station, the city announced an open house for all of the new public facilities between 2 and 5 p.m. on July 18 and 19. It was expected that while the two wing stations were completed but unoccupied, that they would be operational by the fall due to fact that the city was waiting for new fire apparatuses to arrive.<sup>35</sup>

With the completion of the buildings associated with the bond issue, the city was able to use the City's Master plan ideas to accurately accommodate the need for fire stations and fire apparatus throughout the City of Fayetteville as it continued to grow. Though the University of Arkansas had already had a fire station located within the boundaries of the campus, on Maple Street,<sup>36</sup> all of the fire alarms were tied into the Central Station downtown. Due to the amount of students attending the University of Arkansas at the time, having the Central Fire Station only blocks from the campus provided security for both the students and the smaller fire station on campus in case of a large fire. By positioning the Central fire station on the edge of downtown but between downtown and the campus the Central Fire Station was able to respond in a quick and timely manner in the case of a building fire in either location.

However, of the four fire stations built between 1962 and 1968, only two remain enough integrity to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, the Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station No. 1 in Fayetteville, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion A** for its significance in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Politics/Government. The Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station No. 1 is a well-preserved example of a two-story Mid-Century Modern Fire Station in Fayetteville, Arkansas, constructed as part of a city wide development plan, as the City of Fayetteville continued to grow following the end of World War II.

<sup>34</sup> "Moving Day," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 10 July 1964, 1.

<sup>35</sup> "Open Houses Scheduled for New City Buildings," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 11 July 1964, 1.

<sup>36</sup> The Fire Station on Maple Street was relocated some time in 1967 in a land swap between the City of Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas. The building is identical to the two smaller stations built as part of the bond issue in 1962. ("Accomplishments Under Manager System Traced," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 24 January 1968, 5.



Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station #1

Washington County,  
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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Campbell, William S. *One Hundred Years of Fayetteville: 1828-1928*. Jefferson City: Journal of Marian Tebbetts Banes 1928. Rreprint Fayetteville: Washington County Historical Society, 1977.

“History of the Fire Department,”

[http://www.accessfayetteville.org/government/fire/history\\_of\\_the\\_fire\\_department/index.cfm](http://www.accessfayetteville.org/government/fire/history_of_the_fire_department/index.cfm). (Accessed on 6 January 2015. Morris, John. *Fires and Firefighters*. New York: Bramhall House , 1955.

*Northwest Arkansas Times*, Newspaper.

Reynolds John H. and David Y. Thomas. *History of the University of Arkansas*. University of Arkansas: Fayetteville, 1910.

Shelton, T. Ewing. School Building. US Patent 2,756,584, filed August 2, 1952, and issued July 31, 1956.

Shiloh Museum. *The History of Washington County Arkansas*. Springdale, Arkansas: Shiloh Museum, 1989.

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### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station #1

Washington County,  
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Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Fayetteville Fire Department Station No. 1

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** WA1225

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** <1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station #1

Washington County,  
Arkansas  
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Name of Property

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 395226 | Northing: 3991505 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Parcel ID Numbers – 765-01911-000 and 765-01909-000

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains all of the remaining land and buildings historically associated with the building.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Travis Ratermann (Survey Historian)  
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
street & number: 323 Center St. Suite 1500  
city or town: Little Rock state: Arkansas zip code: 72201  
e-mail Travis@arkansasheritage.org  
telephone: 501-324-9874  
date: April 2, 2015

Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station #1

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Name of Property

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Fayetteville Fire Department Station No. 1

City or Vicinity: Fayetteville

County: Washington

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Travis Ratermann

Date Photographed: January 15, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station #1

Washington County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

Photo #1 (AR\_WashingtonCounty\_Fayetteville Fire Department Station No. 1\_0001)

North elevation of the building showing the extended piers which are not structural. It also show the aluminum letters commonly used during the 1950s and 1960s. Camera facing south.

Photo #2 (AR\_WashingtonCounty\_Fayetteville Fire Department Station No. 1\_0002)

North elevation of the building. Camera facing South.

Photo #3 (AR\_WashingtonCounty\_Fayetteville Fire Department Station No. 1\_0003)

East elevation of the building. A small garage bay has been enclosed in the lower left corner of the photo. Camera facing west.

Photo #4 (AR\_WashingtonCounty\_Fayetteville Fire Department Station No. 1\_0004)

South elevation of the building showing the fire apparatus bays and the extended front piers and the cantilevered awnings. Camera facing southwest.

Photo #5 (AR\_WashingtonCounty\_Fayetteville Fire Department Station No. 1\_0005)

West elevation of the building showing a few of the original casement windows. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #6 (AR\_WashingtonCounty\_Fayetteville Fire Department Station No. 1\_0006)

South elevation of the building showing a few of the original casement windows. Camera facing northeast.

Photo #7 (AR\_WashingtonCounty\_Fayetteville Fire Department Station No. 1\_0007)

North elevation of the building showing the fire apparatus bays and the aluminum clad awnings. Notice the canister lights under the awning. Camera facing southeast.

Photo #8 (AR\_WashingtonCounty\_Fayetteville Fire Department Station No. 1\_0008)

Profile of the extended pier on the front of the building. Camera facing west.

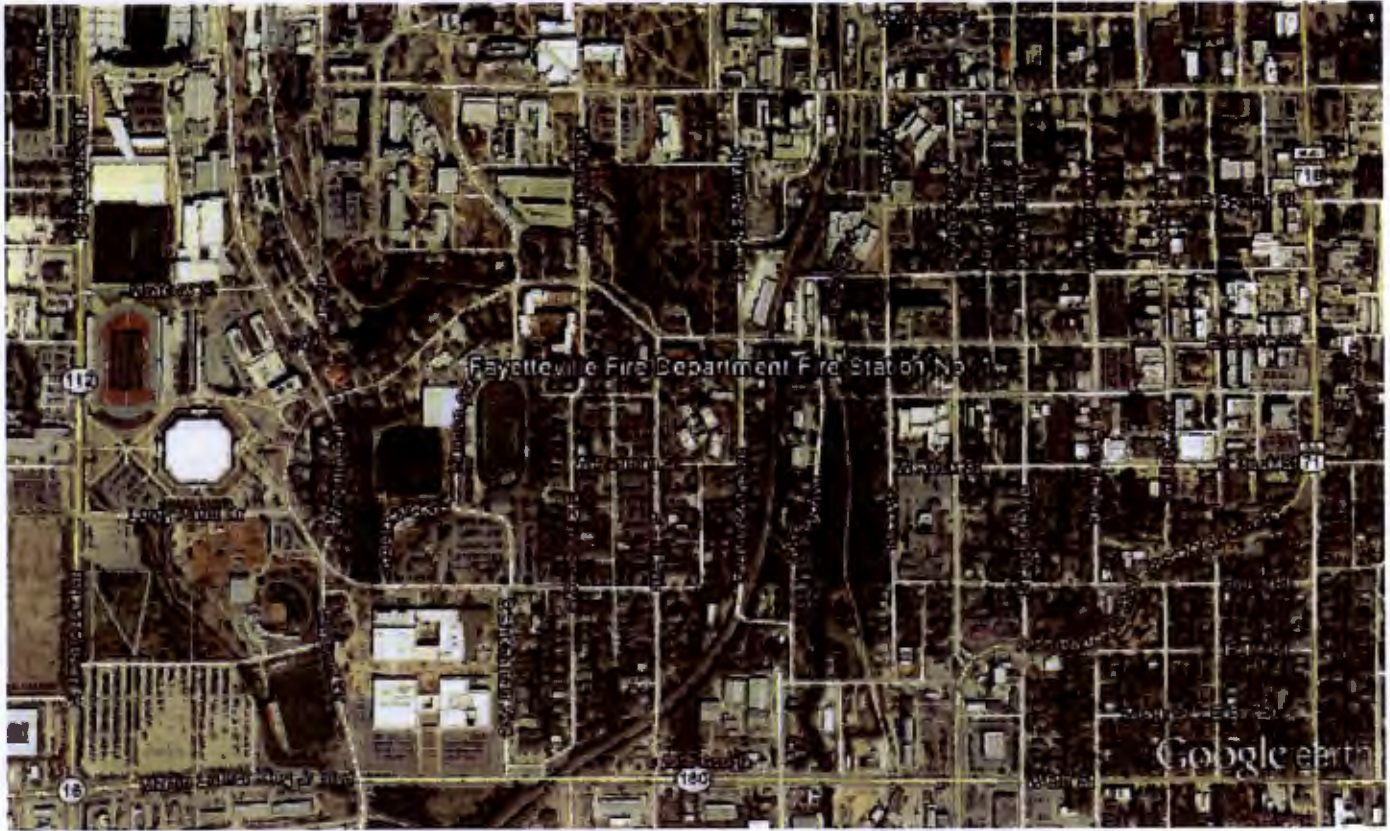
Photo #9 (AR\_WashingtonCounty\_Fayetteville Fire Department Station No. 1\_0009)

Photos of the aluminum letters commonly used during the 1950s and 1960s. Also notice the florescent lights used to illuminate the letters. Camera facing southwest.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station No. 1,  
Fayetteville, Washington County , Arkansas



Google earth



UTM

15 395226 3991505

NAD83

Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station No. 1,  
Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas



Google earth

feet  
meters



UTM

15 395226 3991505

NAD83



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

Asa Hutchinson  
*Governor*

Stacy Hurst  
*Director*

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Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

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Arkansas Historic  
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An Equal Opportunity Employer

January 29, 2015

Jesse Fulcher  
City of Fayetteville  
113 West Mountain Street  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Re: Fayetteville Fire Department Fire Station #1 – Fayetteville, Washington County

Dear Mr. Fulcher:

We are pleased to inform you that the above referenced property will be considered by the State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of the preservation. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places provides recognition and assists in preserving our nation's heritage.

Listing of this property provides recognition of the community's historic importance and assures protective review of the federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property.

Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the property by the federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of property owners. The federal government will not attach covenants to the property or seek to acquire it.

We have enclosed a copy of the National Register nomination for your review. If you have any comments on the proposed nomination, please submit a letter with your comments, concerns, or concurrence to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program at least 24 hours prior to the date of the State Review Board meeting.

You are invited to attend the State Review Board meeting at which the nomination will be considered. The board will begin meeting at 10:00 a.m. on April 1, 2015 in Room 170 of the Tower Building at 323 Center Street in Little Rock.

If you have any questions regarding the State Review Board meeting feel free to call Ralph Wilcox, Callie Williams or Travis Ratermann at (501) 324-9880.

Sincerely,

Frances McSwain  
Director





STATION NO. 1



FAYETTEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

STATION NO. 1













STATION NO. 1







FAYETTEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

