

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals, Springfield Mine Rescue
Station
and/or common Springfield Rescue Station

2. Location

street & number 609 Princeton Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Springfield _____ vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Sangamon code 167

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals

street & number 704 Wm. G. Stratton Bldg.

city, town Springfield _____ vicinity of state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Secretary of State, State Archives

street & number

city, town Springfield _____ state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the north side of Princeton Avenue adjacent to the Norfolk and Western Railroad the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals Springfield Mine Rescue Station lies in southeast Springfield. The lot which is irregular in shape incorporates 84 hundredths acres of land.

The original principal structure was built in 1910, a mobile rescue unit garage was added on the northeast side in 1948. Further work was performed in 1951 with the removal and addition of several internal walls and partitions. The major result of this work being the making of a two car garage.

The rescue station's footings and foundations are of poured concrete. The building is of wood construction with the front part, containing two stories, covered with metal lath and stucco. The rear part, one story, covered with board siding. The roof is of a hipped design.

The rescue station which is ell-shaped has extreme dimensions of 76 feet in width, 87 feet in depth, and 29 feet 6 inches in height. Original design and construction of the building measured 61 feet 6 inches in width. The addition in 1948 of the, 18 feet by 40 feet, mobile rescue unit garage added 14 feet 6 inches to the overall width of the station.

The two story front part of the building is divided into living quarters, an office, and a workshop. The rear part is divided into a classroom/training area and garage space. Windows are present on all walls of the front and rear parts of the building with the exception of the buildings north wall. This wall contains entrances for the smoke room and the mobile rescue unit garage. The first floor windows are three over one paned, set in wide frames. The second floor windows are of a different style, the upper pane containing a diamond design.

The living quarters takes up a portion of the first floor and all the second. This area allows the station to be manned full time, if needed, by the rescue station superintendent. There are dormitory facilities for rescue team members on the second floor.

The classroom/training area has a unique feature in that a smoke room, measuring 8 feet wide, 10 feet 4 inches high, and 40 feet long, was constructed; its purpose to simulate a smoke filled environment similar to that found in many mine disasters. The classroom and garages for the rescue vehicles make up the remaining rear portion of the building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	architecture	education	military	social/
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater
X 1900-	communications	X industry	politics/government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1910

Builder Architect Scott-Morledge Lumber Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals' Springfield Mine Rescue Station is the first built and last remaining mine rescue station constructed as a result of the Cherry Mine Disaster. It was the first permanent facility, built by a coal producing state, whose sole purpose was mine rescue. The Springfield Station and others like it were built out of concern for the safety of miners in the Illinois coalfields. These stations serve two distinct purposes. One, to furnish a trained corps of men available to assist in case of mine emergencies. The second, to train miners in the use of mine rescue techniques and apparatus with the ultimate goal of having trained personnel available at every mine in the state. The Springfield Mine Rescue Station is a lasting symbol of one of the state's earliest efforts to provide a safer work environment for the Illinois miner.

As industry grew, and the use of coal expanded to meet the needs of this growth, Illinois' coal production steadily increased. Mine employment followed this growth until 1923 when it reached its peak of 103,000 miners. This rapid growth in the coal industry did not come without its problems. Because of the rapid expansion, many feared that a disaster could occur at any one of the coal mines in the state.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

This prophesy came true on November 13, 1909, as a fire spread through the underground workings of the St. Paul Coal Company #2 Mine, "Cherry Mine Disaster," killing 259 miners. This disaster proved to be the state's worst coal mine disaster in number of lives lost. The horror of the fire and loss of life spread throughout the state as nearly every city in the state provided either aid or support. Many organizations were to follow in providing aid and assistance.

Public sentiment, aroused by what it saw and heard, gave its support to the need for a law to prevent such a disaster from happening again. The General Assembly was so responsive to this public outcry that legislation was introduced and passed even before all the bodies had been recovered.

This law, approved by the Governor on March 4, 1910, provided for the establishment of three rescue stations to serve the northern, central, and southern coalfields of the state and authorized the Governor to appoint a commission to carry out the provisions of the Act.

The Commission decided, after visiting several sites throughout the state, that the three stations should be located in LaSalle for the northern region, Springfield for the central region, and Benton for the southern region. Due again to the great

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 3

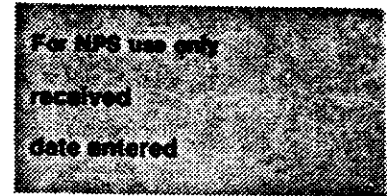
interest toward the development of these stations, all three sites were donated by their respective cities.

Identical in design, construction began on the three rescue stations in the fall of 1910. The first to be completed was the Springfield Rescue Station, in January, 1911. The Benton and LaSalle Rescue Stations, owing to a slight delay in the start of construction, were completed shortly after Springfield's Rescue Station. The LaSalle Mine Rescue Station was abolished in 1943, and the building later destroyed as mining activity diminished in the northern coalfields of Illinois. The Benton Mine Rescue Station, due to its deteriorating condition, was demolished and replaced by a new station in 1970.

Not long after the completion of the three mine rescue stations, it became apparent that to attain the goal of having a better trained corps of Illinois coal miners more stations were needed. Therefore, in 1914, three more rescue stations were established in Herrin, Harrisburg, and DuQuoin. The Department of Mines and Minerals, however, chose not to build these additional stations but instead rent buildings to serve as mine rescue stations. As coal mining development shifted in the state, rescue stations were added or abandoned to meet these shifts in development. Today, the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals has

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 3

Page 4

mine rescue stations in Springfield, Benton, DuQuoin, Eldorado, Coulterville, and Elizabethtown.

In 1947, an amendment specified that, in addition to the mine rescue stations in operation, the Department of Mines and Minerals shall construct, equip, and maintain three mobile rescue units. The first mobile rescue unit was stationed at Springfield. DuQuoin and Benton received the second and third units. The Department had learned, prior to the passing of this amendment, that mobile rescue units would make it possible for rescue teams to answer emergency calls with greater efficiency and speed.

The Springfield Rescue Station continues to serve the Department of Mines and Minerals as its northernmost rescue station. Renewed interest in the coal of central Illinois has brought on the development of new mines and the continued need for the Springfield Rescue Station.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Boundary Description Item number 10

Page 2

Beginning at a stake 50 feet north of the southwest corner of Princeton Ave. and 7th Street, thence north along the west line of 7th Street for 180 feet to a stake, thence west parallel with Princeton Ave. 136½ feet to a stake 75 feet distance from and at right angles to the middle of the main track of the Norfolk and Western Railroad; thence southwesterly and parallel to said railroad tracks 225.3 feet to a stake in the north line of Princeton Ave., 272.1 feet west from place of beginning, thence east 272.1 feet to place of beginning.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Illinois Bureau of Labor Statistics, Twenty-Ninth Annual Coal Report, 1911.
Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals, A Compilation of the Reports of the Mining Industry of Illinois, 1955.
Mine Rescue Stations Commission, Report of the Mine Rescue Station Commission, 1910, 1911.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than an acre

Quadrangle name Springfield West, IL

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	2	7	3	2	0	0	4	4	0	5	9	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

A tract of land in the southwest part of Lot "D", Harvard Park, (See Attached).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title C. Arthur Rice Administrative Assistant

organization IL Department of Mines and Minerals date 1/3/85

street & number 400 S. Spring Street telephone 217/782-6791

city or town Springfield state Illinois

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

William G. Farnon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/20/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

Seville Ward

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 12 1985

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning June 30, 1985 and ending July 6, 1985. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ARIZONA, Maricopa County, Phoenix, Stoughton, Ralph H., Estate, 805 W. South Mountain Ave. (07/03/85)

COLORADO, Gunnison County, Crystal vicinity, Crystal Mill, County Rd. 3, 7 Miles SE of Marble (07/05/85)

COLORADO, Otero County, La Junta vicinity, Bent's Old Fort, CO 194 (07/05/85)

COLORADO, Teller County, Victor, Victor Downtown Historic District, Roughly bounded by Diamond Ave., Second, Portland and 5th Sts. (07/03/85)

FLORIDA, Pinellas County, St. Petersburg, Studebaker Building, 600 Fourth St. South (07/05/85)

ILLINOIS, Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals-Springfield Mine Rescue Station, 609 Princeton Ave. (07/05/85)

KANSAS, Butler County, Douglass vicinity, Muddy Creek Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), Off US 77 (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Butler County, Douglass vicinity, Polecat Creek Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), 5 miles West and 2 miles South of Douglass (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Chase County, Cottonwood Falls, Cottonwood River Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), KS 177, North edge of Cottonwood Falls (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Cloud County, Clyde, Van De Mark, Charles W., House, 504 Washington (07/05/85)

KANSAS, Cowley County, Dexter vicinity, Esch's Spur Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), 3 miles south and 3 miles West of Dexter (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Cowley County, Rock, Bucher Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), Off US 77 (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Crawford County, Girard vicinity, Hudgeon Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), 10 miles South and 3.2 miles West of Girard (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Franklin County, Princeton vicinity, Middle Creek Tributary Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), 5.8 miles West of Princeton (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Franklin County, Wellsville vicinity, Walnut Creek Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), Off KS 33 one mile South of Wellsville (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Greenwood County, Madison vicinity, Verdigris River Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), .5 miles North of Madison (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Greenwood County, Piedmont vicinity, North Branch Otter Creek Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), 1 mile West and 5 miles North of Piedmont (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Hodgeman County, Jetmore vicinity, Hackberry Creek Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), 13 miles West and 11 miles North of Jetmore (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Kiowa County, Belvidere vicinity, Belvidere Medicine River Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), .25 miles North of Belvidere (07/02/85)

KANSAS, Labette County, Mound Valley vicinity, Pumpkin Creek Tributary Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR), Off KS 22 two miles West of Mound Valley (07/02/85)