



Saco Central Fire Station Saco, Maine

National Register Nomination

*SCC prepared the National Register Nomination of this property in conjunction with a certified historic tax credit rehabilitation project.

Sutherland Conservation & Consulting researched and wrote the National Register nomination for the Saco Central Fire Station in Saco, Maine, in 2012. The fire station was threatened with demolition, but was saved in part by the local community who advocated for the building.

Built in 1938-39, the Saco Central Fire Station is significant as an example of changes in community planning and government. The fire station was funded by the Public Works Administration (PWA) under the New Deal. The PWA supported public works projects that used private contractors.

Specifically, it was formed to manage the construction of public buildings. Between 1933 and 1939, the PWA funded more than 34,000 projects in the United States, spending more than \$6 billion in the process. The PWA gave grant money in combination with a loan for the construction of the fire station, which included financing for an updated alarm system.

The station was designed by Lester Beal of Miller & Beal, an architectural firm in Portland, Maine. The station is similar to the Central Fire Station in Portland, which was designed by Miller & Mayo with Beal working as a draftsman, tracing a clear relationship between the two buildings.

