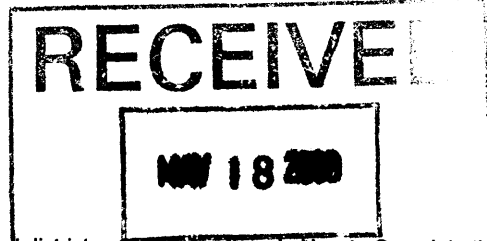


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on reverse. 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 Terre Haute Fire Station No. 8

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_ 167-628-20278

**2. Location**

street & number 1831 Wabash Avenue N/A  not for publication

city or town Terre Haute N/A  vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Vigo code 167 zip code 47807

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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:

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 6-15-00

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

- Ownership options: private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- Category options: building, district, site, structure, object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Fire Station

GOVERNMENT: Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof SYNTHETICS: Rubber

other

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1906 - 1949

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic 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
University
Other

Name of repository:

Community Affairs File, Special Collection, Vigo Co. Public Library, Terre Haute

Terre Haute Fire Station No. 8  
Name of Property

Vigo IN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6	4	6	6	5	8	0	4	3	6	8	6	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

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 Tom E. Champion / President and Corator Fire-Police Museum  
organization Retired Policeman and Fireman Association date 2/15/99  
street & number 1728 South 8th Street telephone 812-235-9865  
city or town Terre Haute state IN zip code 47802

**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 City of Terre Haute, Indiana  
street & number 17 Harding Street telephone 812-232-9467  
city or town Terre Haute state IN zip code 47807

**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section number 7 Page 1 *Terre Haute Fire Station No. 8, Vigo Co., IN*

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***Section 7 - Description***

Terre Haute Fire Station No. 8 (built 1906) is located at 1831 Wabash Avenue, which is the southwest corner of 19th Street and Wabash Avenue. Terre Haute itself occupies a broad flat area adjacent to the Wabash River. The orthogonal street grid of Terre Haute is fractured by a few diagonal roads which were early trails or roads to primary trade centers; one of these is Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute's segment of the National Road.

The diagonal line of Wabash Avenue gives the firehouse a rhomboidal lot. The building is rectangular, leaving a triangular sidewalk area in front of the building. The building fronts close to the curb, but about twice as far back as most other historic storefronts on Wabash. The 19th Street side also has a generous sidewalk. There is currently a small radio tower in the back yard of the firehouse. Because of its temporary nature and recent construction, it is not included in the resource count.

Except for Wabash Avenue, this older eastern section of Terre Haute is primarily residential, being about a mile east of the historic downtown commercial core. Two stories high, with brick walls resting on a dressed limestone base, the fire station is Romanesque Revival in style. The rock-faced orange-red brick is laid up in red tinted mortar, giving the wall a monolithic appearance. The main facade, facing north onto Wabash, sets the tone for the building (photo 1). The architect's use of buttresses and piers creates an emphasis on the corner entrance. The east personnel entrance is offset by two large vehicular bays extending to the west edge of the main floor. Two massive piers flank the deeply recessed personnel doorway. Each of the half-round in cross section piers has a dressed limestone base several feet high, with a rock-faced brick shaft, and painted stone capital (photo 3). Stylized anthemias are carved on the Romanesque style capitals. The doorway, now partly boarded shut, has a paneled door topped by a large plain transom. A narrow double-hung, one-over-one wood window with base kick panel serves as an oversized sidelight. The ceiling of the recessed doorway is covered in pressed metal panels. A painted stone frieze and cornice runs across the front of the building, linking the half-round piers. The third pier marks the west corner of the front. The two vehicle bays are recessed like the entrance. At some point, a recent past owner installed horizontal ribbed aluminum overhead doors with narrow slit windows. The original side hinged door hardware is still visible, but the original doors were discarded.

The second floor has five bays of boarded shut window openings. Simple strip buttresses break the parapet roofline, corresponding to the ground floor piers and dividing the upper facade into two sections. The corner over the entrance has one window with dressed stone lintel and narrow stone sill. Over the vehicle bays stand four windows, these have a continuous sill. A brick corbel table with cornice extends across the roofline of this section of the building. A plain

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parapet with stone coping completes the facade.

The 19th Street elevation is secondary in importance (photo 4). The parapet roofline of this elevation is crow-stepped down, following the pitch of the shed roof to the rear. The 19th Street elevation lacks the dressed stone base, instead it is rock-faced brick to grade. A series of flat strip buttresses divide the elevation into progressively lower sections. Each section save for the front corner has a row of brick corbels at the roof line, built up out of individual bricks like the front corbels. The narrow corner section has one window opening on the second floor. Next is a wider section with four windows, two up and two down. The windows along 19th Street lack the continuous sills of the front windows. The ground floor windows are not boarded up, the one-over-one sash is intact in most openings. The next section to the rear has six openings, three up, three down. Beyond that, one up, one down, and lastly a section with a ground floor vehicle bay with wooden overhead door and one second floor window.

The west side of the building is plain in finish since it was probably thought that it would become hemmed in by other buildings (photo 7). The level of finish is lower than the front or 19th Street side. No rock-faced brick, only common bond regular brick, no elaborate corbels, only a simple running corbel line. No ground floor openings are apparent, only two windows per section, like the 19th Street side. The rear or south elevation is likewise plain (photo 6). This side lacks any corbel or parapet. The openings are roughly symmetrical, though. The center bay was for vehicles or horses (ground floor) and a hay mow (second floor). In 1917, the ground floor opening was changed when this rear bay of the building became a fire truck maintenance garage. A personnel door was created from a window opening beside the center opening. Stone linteled windows are beside the center opening to the west and east of the personnel doorway. A window on each side flanks the hay mow doors on the second floor. A projecting beam with pulley, recently installed where the original beam was located, is centered over the hay mow opening.

The interior of the firehouse is fairly spartan, in keeping with its historic function. The main personnel entrance off of Wabash leads to a foyer and stairway to the second floor. The original pressed metal ceiling with cove molding remains intact (photo 10). The stairs have been enclosed by plywood walls, but originally they opened into the foyer space. First floor bearing walls in front rooms are finished in glazed brick, with a dark brown wainscot and picture rail topped by lighter yellow brick. Window openings are trimmed with simple surrounds, each with an entablature-like header board.

The vehicle bays (photos 8 and 10) are deteriorated but retain many reminders of nine decades of use. Walls are unpainted brick, and a series of wood posts supports the upper floor. The pressed metal ceiling remains in place but is damaged. The floor is now concrete; the city installed new

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floors in 1917 when the station was equipped with fire trucks. The floor was dirt originally. Some time after 1917, a wall separating the stables at the rear of the building from the vehicle bays was removed.

Originally, the first floor storage rooms on the east side of the building were open to the rest of the building. In 1972, the city remodeled this area. Partition walls and hollow core doors created a series of cubicles. It is possible, however, to see the original pressed metal ceiling above the partitions.

Toward the rear of the building, a portion of the beaded board stable walls and pressed metal ceiling remain. The beaded board wall originally completely enclosed this area.

The back rooms of the first floor are more functional in finish. Concrete floors and simple painted brick walls are typical. In the rear garage, an overhead I-beam with chain hoist for engines was installed after 1917, during the stables conversion. The beam is parallel to the south wall of the building (photo 9). Part of the structure is exposed due to the removal of the pressed metal ceiling. A composite beam of six sandwiched joists runs east-west through the building, and two tie rods are bolted through the to the bottom of the composite joist. The tie rods then continue up to the second floor, and connect to a Howe Truss which supports the clear span of the first and second floors in this part of the building. The Howe Truss is visible through the second floor ceiling as well.

The second floor was used for the private aspects of a typical firehouse: sleeping quarters, restrooms, lockers, and personnel recreation. The front room housed sleeping quarters. The city converted this space to a carpenter's shop with double door entrance in 1971. Simple original finishes remain intact: wood floors, plaster walls, entablature-header window moldings, and flat plaster ceilings. Plaster damage due to water infiltration is evident. Intact details like the old (c.1930?) two-blade ceiling fan with ornate motor casing provide a glimpse of the building's past (photo 12). All front windows are one-over-one wood sash, intact behind the exterior board covering. A door in the middle of the south wall connects to the bathroom.

South of the stairway, and approximately the width of the third bay from the front on the 19th Street side, is a second floor recreation room (photo 5). The east section of the room has beaded board lockers and small closets for personnel use. Many of the beaded board doors are missing. The open area of the room was a recreation room, firemen often would play cards here. Windows have simple boards for moldings, with no entablature header, and the sash are two-over-two wood units. The west side of the room has a bathroom, with two original wall mounted sinks, an original toilet, and a c.1970s shower unit. Original doorways make the bathroom accessible via the recreation room or sleeping quarters. Door hardware is dated 1906 and has a

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floral design. A washroom or laundry area adjoins the rec room; it has no original fixtures.

Behind the bathroom and running the remaining width of the building is the kitchen. Doorways lead here from the recreation room toward the front of the firehouse or the hay loft from the back. The city altered the kitchen in the 1970s, it is now a storage area.

The back section of the second floor was the hay loft. Just between the loft and the firemen's locker and rec room is the hose drying tower. This small superstructure is not visible at street level because of the parapet wall. The loft has a bare wood floor, well worn from use and weather. Beaded board walls divide the loft off from the rec room. Two mechanics rooms for tool storage and repair work are located at the southeast corner of the loft. The previously mentioned iron tie bars and Howe Truss are located in this part of the firehouse. The loft has no ceiling finish; the truss is fully exposed to view (photo 14). An original large wooden sliding door can close off the large hay mow opening in the rear center of the back wall.

***Section 8 - Statement of Significance***

Terre Haute Fire Station #8 meets National Register criteria A and C. The firehouse was one of three new firehouses built at the turn of the century to provide modern, professional fire protection to Terre Haute's rapidly growing suburbs. Firehouses are the only civic buildings left from the early 20th century that demonstrate the transition of Terre Haute into a significant urban area. Station #8 is also a well-detailed example of civic architecture from the early 1900s, combining motifs from both Romanesque Revival and Classical Revival styles.

Terre Haute's roots extend back to the 18th century, when it was a favorite spot with French and Canadian *courriers des bois*. The site of Terre Haute was the only area for miles which rose enough out of the flood plain of the Wabash for settlement. During the territorial period, the U.S. government commissioned nearby Fort Harrison in 1811. American troops under Zachary Taylor defended the fort from Native American attack during the War of 1812. A village grew in the shadows of the fort, and land owner Joseph Kitchell petitioned to plat Terre Haute in 1816. The coming of National Road in 1834 insured success for the settlement, which was already becoming a river port on the Wabash. The town named their segment of the National Road "Wabash Avenue." Six hundred people called Terre Haute home in 1832. Workers on the Wabash & Erie Canal had completed the waterway to Terre Haute in 1849. Three years later, railroads came to town.

By this time, Terre Haute had become a significant commercial and industrial center on the Wabash. Pork packing and grain processing were basis for a thriving town. Extractive industries exploited the area's natural resources, mining coal and firing bricks. Rail yards and the



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Vandalia Car Shops were major employers. By 1870, industries included iron works, distilleries, and breweries. Terre Haute was the 90th most populous city in the nation in 1870 with 16,103 inhabitants. The pattern for growth in Terre Haute was set early on: the Wabash and lowlands on the west bank precluded growth, so areas close to the National Road extending to the east, and on higher ground extending north and south, became favored for residential development.

Farrington's Grove, on the near south side, developed during the 1870s, 80s, and 90s as a prime residential area. The population increased from 26,042 in 1880 to 58,157 in 1910. Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute's National Road, was bustling with interurban and trolley traffic. It became a main thoroughfare with homes and commercial clusters at key north-south intersections.

Like most cities in America, Terre Haute depended on horse-drawn fire engines to protect its haphazard collections of frame and masonry structures. The draft horses could only pull the wagons so far before tiring and losing critical response time. Terre Haute's growth east on the National Road had outstripped the nearest firehouse at 13th and Chase, some ten blocks from the site of Fire Station #8. Significant institutions on the east side of Terre Haute were also unprotected, including the Vigo County Home, Rose Orphan's Home, the Pennsylvania Railroad Shops, and Rose-Hulman (then known as Rose Polytechnical) Institute.

The Terre Haute City Council passed an ordinance on May 3, 1905, funding fire house No. 8, to cost \$9,000.00. The Council set the location for the corner of Wabash and 19th in a rapidly developing residential area. In August of 1905, the Council appropriated \$45,000.00 for two more fire houses and equipment for all three new fire houses. The other two houses were at 8th and Idaho (#9, south side) and 14th and Barbour (#10, far north side).

The fire department held a grand opening for No. 8 on May 17, 1906. No. 8's five firemen displayed the house's new steam engine pumper and hose and chemical fire wagon. By 1911, No. 8 had seven men, five horses, and wagons capable of carrying 1800' of hose. Horses were part of everyday life and firefighting at No. 8 until 1917. That year, the city remodeled the building, eliminating the horse stalls, and delivered two new Robbins Fire Apparatus Co. trucks to No. 8. With the transition of U.S. 40 back to federal highway status in 1926, Station No. 8 was perfectly suited to handle fires on the east edge of town. The station covered a broad area during its decades of service to the community. No. 8 also responded to calls as far as the Indiana State Farm in Putnamville (roughly 35 miles away), as well as fires in the Seelyville, Indiana coal mines. The station was responsible for protecting the Vigo County Home, Rose Orphan's Home, Hulman Farm, seven churches, four public schools, and the Pennsylvania Railroad Shops. No. 8 continued to serve as a firehouse until 1972.

Terre Haute's fire stations remain among the few tangible publicly-built historic places in the community. While the historic 1880s county-built courthouse survives, firehouses are the oldest

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Section number 8 & 9 Page 6 *Terre Haute Fire Station No. 8, Vigo Co., IN*

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city government buildings in town. The city received a W.P.A. grant to construct a new city hall in 1937, which still stands. The older city hall structure survived until 15-20 years ago. Terre Haute's citizens built their historic firehouses during the town's greatest growth period.

Of the three firehouses that ushered in the 20th century, only two survive. At one time, the city had ten historic stations. Stations No. 8, 9, and 10 were part of the plan to provide protection to the outlying neighborhoods on the east, south, and north sides of town. No. 10 stood at 14th and Barbour Streets. It was demolished sometime after 1984. Station No. 9 was built in 1905, and still stands at 1728 S. 8th Street. It served the south side of town and has been listed on the National Register. Station No. 7, 9th and Lafayette, dates from 1928, and stands in disrepair. A small neighborhood firehouse/garage at 932 S. 4th served Farrington's Grove area. Built in 1938, it has been altered by loss of its original overhead doors and internal partitioning for office use.

Station No. 8 played a unique role among the early firehouses because of its location on the National Road. Although in need of maintenance, No. 8 still retains its identity as a historic firehouse.

Architecturally, Stations No. 8 and 9 are very similar. It is likely that the same architect designed both structures. The urban "storefront" type of firehouse seen in both evolved from earlier firehouses. Most mid to late 19th century American firehouses were planned around several functions—the storage of horses, feed, and equipment, and the need to watch over the community. The tower was essential for observation and hose drying. With the turn of the century, telephones and ultimately radio dispatch were eliminating the need for the tower. Architects of firehouses like No. 8 realized that hose drying could be accomplished within the building. The urban storefront model of firehouse provided architects with a building type which was both more classical and also more modern. Station No. 8 is good example of an early 20th century firehouse and is a well detailed civic structure within the context of Terre Haute.

***Section 9 - Bibliography***

Champion, Thomas E. *History of Terre Haute Fire Department, 1855-1975*. Shawnee Mission, KS: Inter-Collegiate Press, Inc., 1975.

Minutes of the Common Council, City of Terre Haute.

Oakey, G.C. *Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County*. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1908.

Rowe, Albert W. *Fire Department Report*. Terre Haute, IN: Moore-Langen Publication, 1945.

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Section number 9,10 Page 7 *Terre Haute Fire Station No. 8, Vigo Co., IN*

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*Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Terre Haute, Indiana. 1911.*

Taylor, Robert et al. *Indiana, A New Historical Guide*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1989.

Wilkins, John E. *Some Recollections of the Old Terre Haute Fire Department*. Terre Haute, IN: Terre Haute Tribune Publication, 1910.

***Section 10 - Geographical Data - Verbal Boundary Description***

Lot 328, in Gilbert Subdivision, 2nd Addition, City of Terre Haute. Beginning at the corner of the southwest intersection of Wabash Avenue and 19th Street, running thence west 40 feet, thence south 146 feet, thence west 40 feet, thence north 146 feet, to the place of beginning.

***Boundary Justification***

This is the historic boundary.

***Photographs***

The following is identical for each photo:

Detective Steve Lewis, Terre Haute Police Department, photographer

Photos taken November, 1998

Negatives, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

- #1 View of north (main) facade, camera looking southwest
- #2 View of north (main) facade, camera looking south
- #3 View of pedestrian entrance on north facade, camera looking south
- #4 View of east elevation, camera looking west
- #5 View of Recreation Room window, camera looking east
- #6 View of south elevation, camera looking north
- #7 View of west elevation, camera looking east
- #8 View of fire truck bays, interior, camera looking north
- #9 View of I-beam and south wall, interior, camera looking south
- #10 Detail of pressed metal ceiling, vestibule, interior, camera looking east
- #11 Pressed metal ceiling in fire truck bays, camera looking south
- #12 Detail of ceiling fan in sleeping quarters/carpenter's shop, camera looking north
- #13 View of lockers in Recreation Room, camera looking north
- #14 Howe Truss support, camera looking northwest