

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

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received **NOV 7 1984**
date entered **DEC 6 1984**

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

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

1. Name

historic Jefferson Fire Station

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 146 East Milwaukee Street not for publication

city, town Jefferson vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Jefferson code 055

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name M & M Properties

street & number 146 East Milwaukee Street

city, town Jefferson vicinity of state Wisconsin

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 320 South Main Street

city, town Jefferson state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wis. Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The building is a two-story structure constructed of yellow Watertown brick.

The style is Italianate, making use of embellishments typical in mid-19th century commercial architecture such as a corbeled cornice, arched window consoles with keystones, round-headed windows, and the four pilasters which demarcate bays on the north (front) facade. The function of the building dictated some of its important compositional elements, i.e., the four wide doors serving as access for fire vehicles and the tall tower at the building's rear, used for drying the canvas fire hoses.

The original portion of the building measures 30' x 58'. A few years after its completion, an additional 10' in depth was added to both stories and the 9'6" x 9'6" hose tower was built at the southwest corner. This addition replicated the brick and decoration of the original structure. In the mid-1950's, a one-story garage building was added at the rear. This 30' x 56' addition has four truck doors, and is concrete block construction faced with yellow brick. It is joined to the original building with a party wall and access to it is by a standard pedestrian door.

The exterior of the 19th-century portion of the building has undergone change only in the fenestration on the first floor. Originally, the truck doors on the north side of the building opened out; these have been replaced with overhead doors. The original glass transoms above these doors have been filled in with wooden panels. On the east side of the building two original windows were removed to create an additional truck door sometime after 1889. Two windows on this side of the building have been bricked in; these now serve as pedestrian doors.

The first floor of the original building contains three bays -- two for trucks and one for a pedestrian door. Today, one bay contains closed offices which are bounded by the original wooden posts. The other truck bay is reception space and also has a computing center in it. The wooden ceiling also remains.

The second floor, where the city hall offices used to be, has virtually the same layout except for an office above the first floor reception area. The original maple floors remain. The mezzanine level is space that was borrowed from the attic.

The building (with its garage addition) occupies 3720 square feet, the total lot area. Sidewalks and alleys ring three sides of the building. There is an asphalt parking/driveway area on the street terrace adjoining the building's east side.

The site itself is at the edge of Jefferson's downtown commercial district. Adjoining buildings date from the 1870's through 1900.

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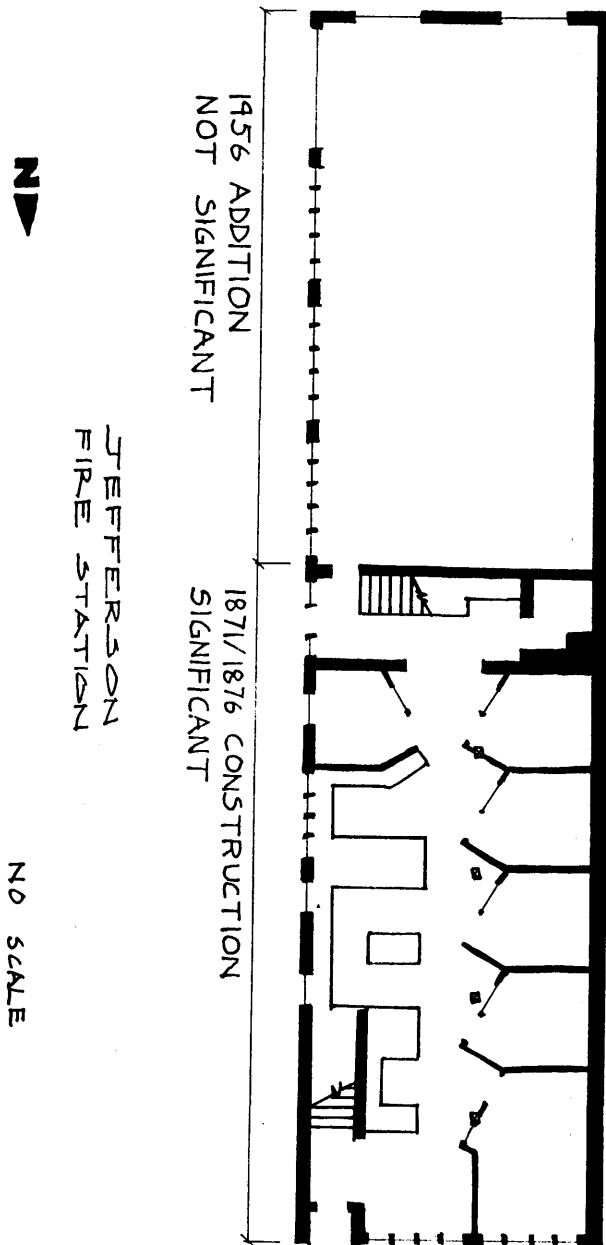
**National Register of Historic Places
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Jefferson Fire Station Jefferson, WI
Continuation sheet Physical Description

Item number 7

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8. Significance

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

Specific dates	Original construction 1871, addition 1876 ¹	Builder/Architect	Alexander Kirkland ²
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jefferson Fire Station is significant as a physical symbol of the history of local self-government and as a well-preserved example of a Victorian special-use building, designed by a prominent architect.

Historical Significance - Politics and Government

The building was erected in 1871 by the then village government of Jefferson. Simultaneous with the construction was the organization of a community volunteer fire department which still provides the city's fire service today. From its inception, the Jefferson Fire Department has served not only as an important civic institution but as a local club as well -- the station providing a meeting place, and the related social events an opportunity for camaraderie on the part of the volunteers. Expressive of the importance of the fire department in 19th-century Jefferson's community life is that several of the town's prominent citizens were members of the company. Memorabilia from the early years of the fire department commemorate achievements, such as Jefferson's victory in an 1897 hook-and-ladder team running competition, which were as much social events as they were tests of fire-fighting skill.

The building housed Jefferson's Fire Department up until June 1983.

In addition, the second floor rooms of the building served as Jefferson's municipal offices from the granting of the city charter in 1878 until the construction of a separate building in 1965. This office use is considered of lesser significance than the building's fire station function; little comment on the city hall has been found in the literature, and the building has no special design features for this ancillary use.

Architectural Significance

Jefferson's downtown area took on its present shape during the mid-to-later decades of the 19th century, when the builder's vocabulary drew heavily from Italianate styling. The versatility of the style allowed it to be used on many types of buildings, from residential to industrial. The design of Jefferson's fire station is consistent with the corpus of Jefferson's downtown business buildings, but here Italianate ornament is used to embellish a structure designed for very specialized use. The repetition of the arched consoles over the truck doors, for example, harmonizes these utilitarian components with the rest of the festooning. The corbeled cornice of the hose tower capitalizes on an otherwise discordant part of the structure. The tower suggests a typical Italianate turret or belvedere rather than an added-on stack.

The original design was by Alexander Kirkland, a Scottish architect who practiced in Glasgow for about twenty years. Some of his projects include St. Vincent Crescent and

9. Major Bibliographical References

Andreas, A.T., History of Chicago, Vol. III, Arno Press, New York, 1975.

History of Jefferson County, Wisconsin, Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1879.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property under 1 acre

Quadrangle name Jefferson

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	5	2	8	0	0	4	7	6	2	6	6	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

The East 30' of Lot 1, Block Seven, Original Plat of Jefferson

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 John Rolling and Jodi Rubin

organization Preservation Services

date 6/1/84

street & number 403 W. Washington Avenue

telephone (608) 257-7506

city or town Madison

state Wisconsin

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

title Director of Historic Preservation

date October 25, 1984

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

Entered in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 12/6/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Jefferson Fire Station, Jefferson, WI

Continuation sheet Significance Statement

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Napier Place, the Bothwell Street business block, approaches to the suspension bridge³ over the Clyde, Anderson and Co. Warehouse and designs for various public monuments. He arrived in Jefferson in 1868 and remained three years. The fire station is the only known Kirkland design in Jefferson. Kirkland moved to Chicago after the fire of 1871 to assist in the rebuilding of the city. From 1879 through the 1880's he was Chicago's Commissioner of Public Buildings.

Kirkland (with James J. Egan) designed the 1882 Renaissance Revival Cook County Building, which was replaced by the present structure in 1906.⁴ The former adjacent Chicago City Hall was designed by John M. Van Osdel; Kirkland was the supervising architect for that project.⁵

Kirkland's design for the Jefferson Fire Station was a 30' X 58' building. In 1876, the building was extended by 10' in length, and the hose tower was added.⁶ This addition, by local builder Adam Spangler, is in keeping with the original, using the same brick and ornament as the original.

The one-story yellow brick garage at the rear of the building was added in 1956. No significance is claimed for this addition.

Roughly contemporary to the Jefferson Fire Station were two other Jefferson public buildings-- a Jefferson Liberal Institute (built 1868) which became the city's first public high school in the 1870's, and the Jefferson County Courthouse and Jail (built 1880). Neither building survives today.

¹ History of Jefferson County, Wisconsin (Chicago, 1879), p. 475.

² Jefferson Banner, September 8, 1871.

³ M.L. Ahern, The Political History of Chicago (Chicago, 1886), pp. 137-8.

⁴ F.A. Randall, The Development of Chicago Building Construction (Champaign-Urbana, 1949), pp. 102-3.

⁵ A.T. Andreas, History of Chicago (New York, 1975), III, pp. 103-6.

⁶ History of Jefferson County, p. 475.