

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

636

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: Fire Station #1

Other names/site number: City of Palm Springs Fire Station 1

Name of related multiple property listing:

The Architecture of Albert Frey

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

2. Location

Street & number: 277 North Indian Canyon Drive

City or town: Palm Springs State: CA County: Riverside

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 X C ___ D

	<u>13 August 2015</u>
Julianne Polanco/State Historic Preservation Officer	Date
<u>California State Office of Historic Preservation</u>	
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

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

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:)


Signature of the Keeper

9-28-2015
Date of Action

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

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/fire station

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/fire station

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: METAL: steel, aluminum, CONCRETE
BLOCK, GLASS

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

City of Palm Springs Fire Station #1 is located along the busy commercial thoroughfare of North Indian Canyon Drive. Constructed in 1955, the one-story desert modern fire station designed by Albert Frey is of terracotta-colored concrete block construction and consists of a low horizontal administrative wing and a taller garage containing two fire engines. The administrative wing is capped by a flat roof that extends outward to form deep eaves with a corrugated metal ceiling and fascia. A floor-to-ceiling grid of tinted windows punctuates the primary (east) elevation within which the pedestrian entrance is located. The attached garage rises above the administrative wing and is fronted by a roll up metal door. Fire Station #1 is in excellent condition and retains a high level of historic integrity.

Narrative Description

Albert Frey designed this one-story fire station in 1955. It is of terracotta-colored concrete block construction with the flat roof of the low, horizontal administrative wing extending to form deep eaves with a corrugated metal ceiling and fascia (**Figure 1**). A floor-to-ceiling grid of tinted windows interrupted by a solid wood entry door punctuates the administrative wing's primary

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

(east) elevation. The eaves, ceiling, fascia, and entrance are all painted the sage green color associated with Albert Frey. A flagpole penetrates a small square cutout in the front eave (**Figure 2**). South of the window grid attached to the concrete block exterior are the words “CITY OF PALM SPRINGS FIRE STATION No. 1” rendered in metal in a modern typeface. The attached garage rises above the administrative wing and is fronted by a roll up metal door protected by a tall, corrugated metal parapet painted sage green. On the secondary south elevation, slender steel posts support the broad overhang beneath which clerestory windows provide interior light. The rear of the building contains two small utility rooms and the garage opening. As is typical with the buildings of Albert Frey, there is no applied ornamentation and no historical references in its design. The entire composition is compact, efficient, and elegant.

Few modifications are visible since the building was constructed in 1955, although the interior of the administrative wing lobby has been remodeled. Overall the integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association remains high. As a result, Fire Station #1 is able to convey its architectural significance because it exhibits key character-defining features associated with the desert modern design work of Albert Frey. It is of terracotta-colored concrete block construction; has a flat roof; corrugated metal eaves, ceiling, and fascia painted sage green; incorporates large expanses of glass; and avoids applied ornamentation and historical references.

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

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

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1955

Significant Dates

1955

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Frey, Albert

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

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.)

Palm Springs Fire Station #1 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of civic architecture associated with the modern movement as interpreted by Albert Frey for the desert environment of the Coachella Valley. In addition, the property meets *The Architecture of Albert Frey* Multiple Property Submission registration requirements for civic buildings in association with the historic context “Desert Modern Design in the Coachella Valley, 1934-1965.” The period of significance corresponds with the building’s date of construction, 1955.

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

City of Palm Springs Fire Station #1 exemplifies the distinctive characteristics of Albert Frey’s approach to modern civic design in the desert. It is of terracotta-colored concrete block construction; has a flat roof; corrugated metal eaves, ceiling, and fascia painted sage green; incorporates large expanses of glass; and avoids applied ornamentation and historical references.

Fire Station #1 exemplifies the distinctive characteristics of civic architecture associated with architect Albert Frey. The importance of the building and its significance within the “Desert modern design in the Coachella Valley 1934-1965” historic context are presented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form. City of Palm Springs Fire Station #1 is a key example of the civic building property type that maintains sufficient integrity to be readily identifiable as the work of master architect Albert Frey. The property meets National Register Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of civic architecture associated with Albert Frey and is the work of a master architect.

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

As indicated in *The Architecture of Albert Frey* Multiple Property Documentation Form.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University of California, Santa Barbara
 - Other
- Name of repository: Palm Springs Art Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.826234 Longitude: -116.545817

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

The nominated property is located at 277 North Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, Riverside County, California on the west side of North Indian Canyon Drive. The property fronts approximately 100 feet of North Indian Canyon Drive. Its legal description is LOT 33 AND 34 BLK 25 MB 009/432 SD MAP OF P APN: 513-091-021.

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Fire Station #1, 277 North Indian Canyon Drive.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Peter Moruzzi/Architectural Historian
organization: _____
street & number: 2018 Griffith Park Blvd. #114
city or town: Los Angeles state: CA zip code: 90039
e-mail petermoruzzi@gmail.com
telephone: 213-706-0151
date: February 10, 2015

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.

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property	Fire Station #1
City or Vicinity	Palm Springs
County	Riverside
State	California
Photographer	Peter Moruzzi
Date Photographed	February 2015

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

- 1 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0001.tif
Context view, camera facing northwest
- 2 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0002.tif
East elevation, camera facing west
- 3 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0003.tif
East elevation, camera facing northwest
- 4 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0004.tif
West elevation, camera facing southwest
- 5 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0005.tif
South and rear (west) elevations, camera facing northeast
- 6 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0006.tif
Rear (west) elevation, camera facing southeast
- 7 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0007.tif
Detail, flagpole cutout and glazing, camera facing northwest
- 8 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0008.tif
Interior view, camera facing northeast

Index of Figures

- Figure 1 Primary (east) elevation, looking west, 1958.
- Figure 2 East and south elevations, looking northwest, 1958.

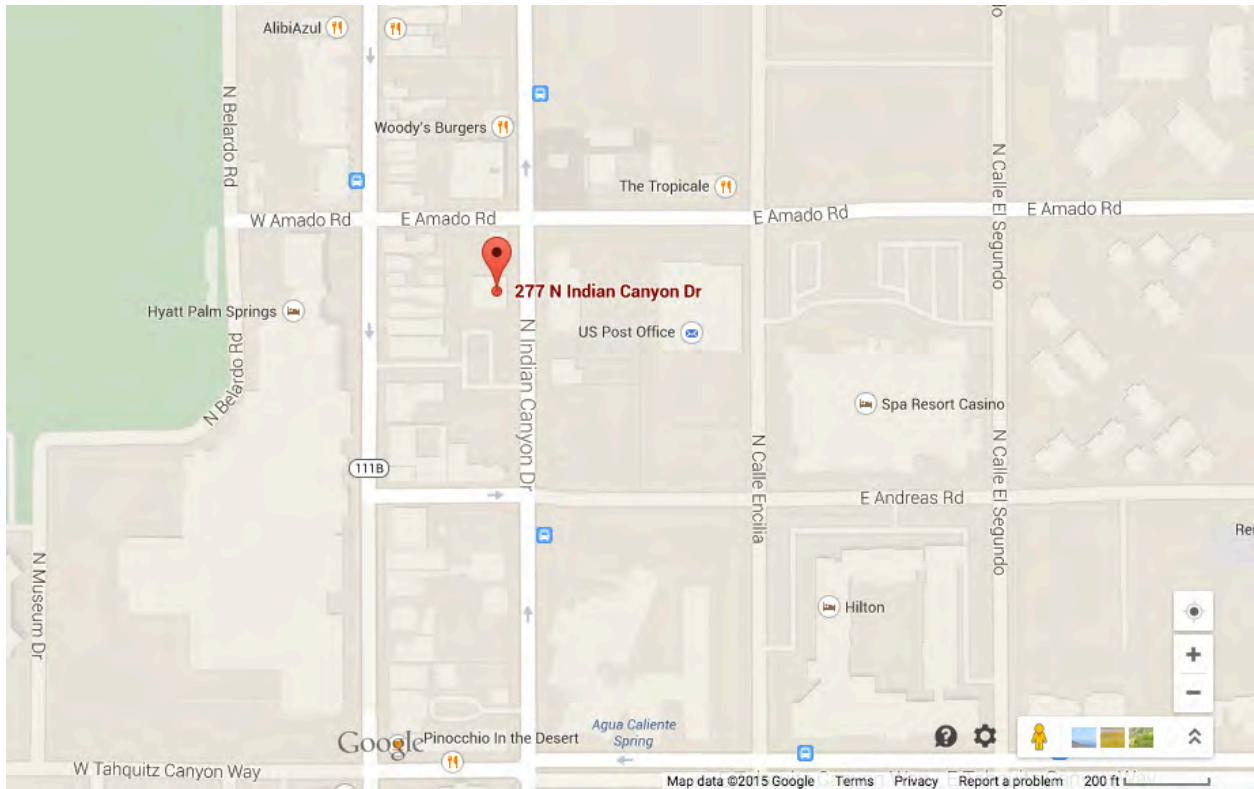
Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Location Map

Latitude: 33.826234

Longitude: -116.545817



Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Sketch Map/Photo Key



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.

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Figure 1. Primary (east) elevation, looking west, 1958.



Copyright The J. Paul Getty Trust. The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles. ID no.: gri_2004_r_10_b0022_f024_2537_01. Digital images and files are provided for study purposes only. Copyright restrictions apply. For copyright information or higher resolution images visit: http://hdl.handle.net/10020/repro_perm.

Fire Station #1
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Figure 2. East and south elevations, looking northwest, 1958.



Copyright The J. Paul Getty Trust. The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles. ID no.: gti_2004_r_10_b0022_1024_2537_02. Digital images and files are provided for study purposes only. Copyright restrictions apply. For copyright information or higher resolution images visit: http://hdl.handle.net/10020/repro_perm.



STOP
FIRE DEPT
PARKING
ONLY

FIRE
STATION
DO NOT
BLOCK
DRIVEWAY



1500 W. KARA DRIVE
1500 W. KARA DRIVE

1500

STOP
NO LEFT
TURN
PARKING
ONLY

30 MINUTE PARKING

1500

1500

CITY OF PALM SPRINGS
FIRE STATION NO 1

777

T.

S
D





WARNING
NO PARKING
REMOTE
CONTROLLED DOOR

FIRE STATION NO. 1
Built 1957
Designed by
Albert Frey
This fire station is associated with
the development of the commercial core
and serves as an example of a post-war,
modern style building. The lines of the
unpainted brick and corrugated metal
facade are complementary to the desert.
A unique feature is the Uruguian design,
which places the roof overhang.
Historic Site Preservation Board - 839









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fire Station No. 1
NAME:

MULTIPLE Architecture of Albert Frey MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Riverside

DATE RECEIVED: 8/14/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/09/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/24/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/29/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000636

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9-28-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Meets Reg Requirements

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER J. Gabbard DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/ see attached SLR Y/

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95818-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

**RECEIVED 2280**

AUG 14 2015

**Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service**

August 13, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Subject: **The Architecture of Albert Frey MPS
Riverside County, California
National Register of Historic Places Nominations**

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find **The Architecture of Albert Frey Multiple Property Submission** consisting of the Multiple Property Documentation Form and ten associated individual nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. On August 7 in Sacramento, California, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously approved the MPS and found ten individual properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance.

The enclosed eight disks contain the true and correct copy of the nominations for THE ARCHITECTURE OF ALBERT FREY MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION. Disk 1 includes the Multiple Property Documentation Form, correspondence, and ten associated individual nominations for Carey House, Fire Station #1, Frey House II, Kocher-Samson Building, Loewy House, North Shore Yacht Club, Palm Springs City Hall, Palm Springs Tramway Valley Station, Sieroty House, and Tramway Gas Station to the National Register of Historic Places. Disks 2 through 8 contain photographs in this same order.

The resources are eligible under Criterion C because they embody the distinctive characteristics of residential, commercial, civic, or religious architecture associated with architect Albert Frey. Frey's architecture helped define desert modernism in the Coachella Valley. Desert modernism is the adaptation of modern architectural concepts to the climatic extremes of the Coachella Valley while embracing the area's unique natural setting of mountains and open vistas. The geographical area of the MPS is Riverside County, California.

The first ten properties nominated under this MPS are as follows, in alphabetical order. Period of significance is the date of construction, indicated in parentheses.

- Carey House: 651 West Via Escuela, Palm Springs (1956)
- Fire Station #1: 227 North Indian Avenue, Palm Springs (1955)
- Frey House II: 686 Palisades Drive, Palm Springs (1964)
- Kocher-Samson Building: 766 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs (1934)
- Loewy House: 600 Panorama Road, Palm Springs (1946)

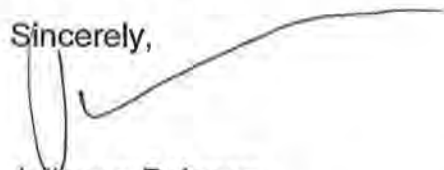
- North Shore Yacht Club: 99-155 Sea View Drive, Mecca (1958)
- Palm Springs City Hall: 3200 East Tahquitz Way, Palm Springs (1952-1956)
- Palm Springs Tramway Valley Station: 1 Tram Way, Palm Springs (1963)
- Sieroty House: 695 East Vereda Sur, Palm Springs (1941)
- Tramway Gas Station: 2901 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs (1965)

The MPS, including the MPDF and ten associated properties, is nominated on behalf of a group of private individuals. In its role as representative of the City of Palm Springs, a Certified Local Government, the Historic Site Preservation Board did not comment on the nomination.

Eleven letters of support were received, including a letter from the City of Palm Springs in support of the three city-owned properties. A letter of objection is on file from Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority, owner of Palm Springs Tramway Valley Station and governing body of Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. The Authority, a public agency and public corporation of the State of California, was created by the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority Act Ch.1040 of the Statutes of 1945, as amended by Ch.70 of the Statutes of 1947 and Ch.1004 of the Statutes of 1951, of the State of California.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Amy Crain of my staff at (916) 445-7009.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure