

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: King
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 19 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Fire Station #18

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Ballard Fire Station

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
5427 Russell Avenue N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Seattle

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
#1 - Honorable Joel Pritchard

STATE Washington	CODE 53	COUNTY: King	CODE 033
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	City Fire Station	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Seattle

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Seattle Municipal Building, 600 Fourth

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle	STATE: Washington	CODE 53
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
King County Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle	STATE: Washington	CODE 53
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

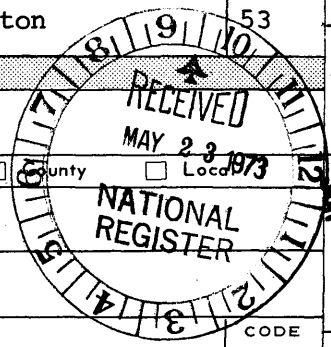
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Washington
COUNTY: King
ENTRY NUMBER NW 19 1973
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Composed of red brick, Fire Station #18 stands two and a half stories high and has a partial basement. The building measures 100' x 100', and remains in use today.

The roof has wood frame supports with the sloped portions being composed of metal with batten exterior framing. The square hose tower has detailed stone and brick railing at the top. The front and two sides of the building each have a central stepped gable, and all the second and third floor narrow-paned windows have painted wood sashes.

Four bay doors for fire engines open on the front of the building. The two center bays have straight door heads, whereas the two outer bays have curved door heads which are detailed by extra vertical brickwork. A small one-story watch office extends out from the north side of the station.

The interior of the building has changed little except in the rear where horse stalls have been replaced by a small handball court. No changes were made in the wall line between the stalls and the equipment bays in front.

The two central bay doors have also been changed. Originally they were double doors and side hung, but now they have been replaced with overhead balanced garage-type doors.

All other furnishings have generally been maintained as original.



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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Designed 1910 - Constructed 1911**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Fire Department</u>                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>history</u>                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architects Bebb and Mendel drew up plans for the station in 1910, and it was completed the following year. Thus, the Ballard Fire Station was erected just four years after the town of Ballard was absorbed by the expanding City of Seattle.

The station first housed Engine Company #18 and Ladder Company #8. By 1924, all the horse-drawn vehicles had been replaced by trucks. Four years later, the building became headquarters for the Sixth Battalion.

Fire Station #18 has been used for sixty-two consecutive years, longer than any other existing Seattle fire station. Thus the building has special significance in helping depict fire department history, particularly since it is a remnant of the horse-drawn equipment days.

A sophisticated engineering feature of the building when built was the use of vertical steel beams connected to a single horizontal wood beam. This was advantageous because the latter beam supported the first floor without any need for obstructing posts in the equipment area. The station's design was practical for the period when it was erected, and today it still displays distinction and character. Furthermore, Fire Station #18 remains as one of the last of the original buildings in the downtown Ballard area.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bebb and Mendel, 1910; Architectural drawings on file at City of Seattle Architect's office.

Campbell, Robert. "Can We Afford to Demolish Our History?" Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 6, 1970.

Stevenson, Jim. Seattle Firehouses of the Horsesdrawn and Early Motor Era. Seattle, 1972.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

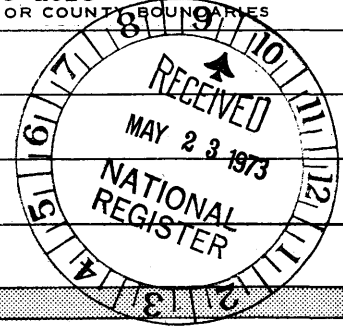
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		47 40 07 "	122° 22' 56 "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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5279420  
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Charles S. McKenzie**

ORGANIZATION: **City of Seattle, City Architect's Office**      DATE: **Feb. 7, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Seattle Municipal Building, 600 Fourth**

CITY OR TOWN: **Seattle**      STATE: **Washington**      CODE: **53**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard  
**Charles H. Odegaard**

Title Director, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Date May 10, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Robert M. Utley  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/19/73

ATTEST:  
WJ [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6 14 73