

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

For NPS use only

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

received SEP 30 1986
date entered NOV 10 1986

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

1. Name

historic Tenth Precinct Station House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 750 Park Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Washington

N/A vicinity of congressional district: Walter E. Fauntroy

state District of Columbia code 11

county District of Columbia code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Recreation Administration

4. Owner of Property

name District of Columbia Department of Recreation

street & number 3149 Sixteenth Street, N.W.

city, town Washington

N/A vicinity of

state District of Columbia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Sixth and D Streets, N.W.

city, town Washington

state D.C.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Tenth Precinct Station House was built in 1901. The station is two stories high on a full basement. It measures approximately 46' wide across the facade, 58' across the rear, and is about 83' deep. The facade is faced with red-orange brick, glazed brick, and red terracotta. A prominent metal bracketed cornice is distinguished by egg-and-dart and rope moldings. Windows are one-over-one double hung sash below segmental arches and narrow divided transom lights.

The tripartite facade is divided into two horizontal zones by a molded terracotta cornice that incorporates the sills of the second story windows. The first story is articulated with projecting brick banding incorporating corner quoining and window vousoirs; the quoining continues through the second story. Swagged consoles surmount the windows and doors. The watertable is faced with rusticated sandstone. The facade is distinguished by two terracotta string courses that continue the classical molding motifs embellishing the window surrounds. Below the cornice is a wide band of flemish diagonal bond in which headers have been glazed in a diaperwork pattern.

The segmental-arched entrance is set in a slightly projecting banded frontispiece surmounted by a cornice embellished with dentil, egg-and-dart, acanthus, guilloche, and astragal moldings. An ornate terracotta panel, edged with foliated designs and displaying the words "10th Precinct Police Station" in high relief, is surmounted by a large oculus window in a cartouche. The horizontal brick banding and the ornamental use of terracotta on the string courses and windows serve to unify the facade composition and integrate the two materials.

The plan of the station is arranged in four "zones" that are readable on the exterior principally on the east side, where they are defined as projections or recessions of the wall planes. The front zone comprises a single large room on each floor. Behind this, the second zone consists of smaller rooms flanking a center hall that has round arches at either end. The third zone is largely occupied by the stairhall, oriented parallel to the facade. The rear zone is divided into cellblock and stable areas on the first floor, and four rooms, bisected by a hall, on the second.

(continued)

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1901 **Builder/Architect** A.B. Mullett & Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Tenth Precinct Station House, designed by A.B. Mullett and Company and built in 1901, is significant for its architectural character and its historical association with the police department of the District of Columbia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The designation of the Tenth Precinct and the construction of the police station in 1901 were responses to the expansion of the city limits and urban population into this area. Reforms in the D.C. police department in the latter decades of the nineteenth century had led to the enlargement of the force and creation of new precincts.

The street system in the area north of Florida Avenue (formerly Boundary Street) had been surveyed by 1901, but few buildings had been constructed. By 1910, the block from Sherman Street to Georgia Avenue, in which the station house is located, was almost fully occupied by tradesmen and workers. The station house, assessed at \$13,000, was by far the most imposing building on the block in which most of the properties were assessed at less than \$1,000. Its imposing character in relation to the residential environs as well as its architectural quality suggest the importance of symbolic expression of authority. This expression is characteristic of the City Beautiful movement, a growing belief at the turn of the century that public structures should be imposing, monumental and of classical style.

Until 1886, the D.C. police department had been charged with corruption, political partisanship and venality. Subsequent reforms led to the enlargement of the force and creation of new precincts. Each station house was staffed by a captain, a lieutenant and several sergeants. The station house was the first facility to which an arrested man or woman was brought. At the station house, the arrest was recorded, and the prisoner was confined there until released on bail or removed to police court for trial or to jail to await grand jury testimony. Misdemeanors were handled at the station house; felonies were dealt with in D.C. Supreme or Police Court.

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .1 acre

Quadrangle name Washington West, D.C.-MD-VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 18 324450 4310950
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The resource at 750 Park Road is defined on the north by the present sidewalk and on the south by the building and by the (continued)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state District of Columbia code 11 county District of Columbia code 001

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy Friedlander, Ph.D., Historian, and Martha Bowers, Architectural Historian
Cultural Resource Group

organization Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. date August 31, 1986

street & number 1730 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W. telephone (202) 466-4000

city or town Washington state D.C.

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X 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 Carol B. Thompson
title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 29, 1986
for the District of Columbia

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

Patricia Anderson date 11/10/86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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The station interior is functionally finished, with plastered walls and ceilings, and wood and linoleum flooring. The extreme height of the first floor ceilings (13 feet) is emphasized by the doorways, framed in wide, strongly-molded architraves culminating in projecting cornices 11-1/2 feet above the floor.

The building has retained a high level of integrity. Although original windows have been removed, the replacement sash is similar. A low platform on the west side of the main front room that once served as a dais for a desk sergeant remains, although the railing has been removed. Steel cells have also been removed, but the brick walls convey the original function. The ceiling height has been retained throughout. An enclosed vestibule was erected inside the main entrance in the early twentieth century; the vestibule walls are glazed tile above a panelled dado.

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The Tenth Precinct Station is an outstanding example of a public building designed for a neighborhood environment. The necessary authoritative presence is denoted by the scale and ornamentation of the building while the rectilinear, two-story, three-bay brick facade is in keeping with the brick rowhouses characteristic of the block.

The station was designed by the firm of A.B. Mullett and Company, a Washington firm established in 1889 by Alfred B. Mullett and his sons, Frederick and Thomas. The senior Mullett (1834-1890) was supervising architect of the U.S. Treasury from 1866 through 1874 during which period he was in charge of the design and construction of the State, War, and Navy Building and some forty other government buildings. In 1884, after a ten-year hiatus in his career, Mullett established a private practice in Washington, which his sons joined five years later. Mullett committed suicide in 1890, but the firm remained active in Washington for nearly fifty years thereafter.

No other buildings by Mullett have been identified in the vicinity of the precinct house, nor have buildings of similar architectural quality and character been identified in this area. However, the architectural excellence of the building suggests the reformist mindset that characterized the police department policies at the turn of the century and the construction of the station house testifies to the expansion of municipal services that accompanied the spatial expansion of Washington.

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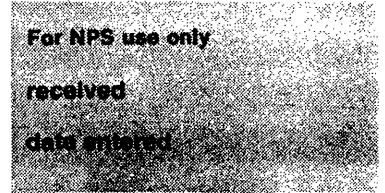
received

date entered

Continuation sheet	References	Item number	Page
		9	1
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	Baist's Surveys of Washington, District of Columbia. 1925 Vol. 3. C. W. Baist & Sons, Philadelphia, PA.		
	Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia. 1900- R. L. Polk & Company, Washington, D.C. 1935		
	District of Columbia 1908- General Assessments. On file at Martin Luther King Library, 1922 Washington, D.C.		
	Green, Constance 1962 <u>Washington: A History of the Capital, 1800-1950.</u> Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ		
	Gutheim, Frederick 1976 <u>The Federal City: Plans & Realities.</u> Smithsonian Institution, National Capital Planning Commission, Commission of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C.		
	Hopkins, G. W. 1894 <u>Real Estate Plat Book of Washington, D.C.</u> Vol. 3, G. M. Hopkins, Philadelphia, PA.		
	Placzek, Adolf K. (Ed). 1982 <u>MacMillan Encyclopedia of Architects.</u> The Free Press, MacMillan Publishing Co., New York.		
	Schmeckehier, Laurence 1928 <u>The District of Columbia: Its Government and Administration.</u> John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD.		
	Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Library, Washington, D.C. "P" Street File "Police, Precincts" File		
	Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey 1970 <u>Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased).</u> Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.		

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Continuation sheet Boundary description Item number 10 Page 1

brick walls defining the property lines on the east and west sides of the lot. These walls date to the construction of the building and include within the bounds of the property the alley that historically served the precinct house to the west of the building.