

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OCT 06 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to 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 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. 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 Casper Fire Department, Station #1

other names/site number Casper Municipal Garage and Fire Station

2. Location

street & number 302 South David St not for publication N/A

city or town Casper vicinity N/A

state Wyoming code WY county Natrona code 025 zipcode 82601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 36 CFR 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.)

John J. Keck Signature of certifying official Date 9/27/93

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer
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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

~~Entered in the~~
National Register

- entered in the National Register Allores Byers 11/4/93
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): _____

for _____ Signature of Keeper 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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Government Sub: Fire station and garage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Government Sub: Warehouse

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
roof Tar and Gravel
walls Brick
other Terra cotta

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Politics/Government

Period of Significance 1921-1943

Significant Dates 1921

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Garbutt, Weidner and Sweeney

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(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

- X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 4 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Row 1: 1, 13, 391620, 4744540, 3, ____, ____, _____. Row 2: 2, ____, ____, ____, 4, ____, ____, _____. Row 3: ____, 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.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Eileen Starr and Dr. Michael Cassity

organization Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office date Janauary 1993

street & number Barrett Building, 2301 Central Avenue telephone 307-777-7697

city or town Cheyenne state WY zipcode 82002

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Additional Documentation
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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)

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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Casper

street & number 200 North David telephone 307-235-8400

city or town Casper state WY zip code 82601
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Casper Fire Dept. Station #1
name of property

Natrona County, Wyoming
county and State

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The Casper Municipal Garage and Fire Station was designed in 1921 by the city's leading architectural firm of the day, Garbutt, Weidner and Sweeney. Because of the building's unusual design and striking late Gothic Revival appearance, the Fire Station stands out on South David Street. Embellished with terra cotta manufactured by the Denver Terra Cotta Company, the Casper Fire Department Station #1 is one the city government's most significant buildings. The building is located in the downtown area on a side street where most of the buildings have a non-historic appearance. The Fire Station is rectangularly shaped, is two stories tall, and measures 42 feet by 80 feet. It has a sloped flat roof and the brick on the facade consists of red and darker colored face brick. Lighter colored "common brick" was used on the sides. Buff colored terra cotta ornaments the three garage door openings, the upper floor windows, and an unusual crenelated parapet. Originally the building consisted of a one story garage attached to the north part of the station. The portion which is no longer extant consisted of two garage doors with a regular entry between the garage doors. (So the entire original facade was a five bay front.) Currently a furniture store occupies the area where the garage was located. The same type of brick and terra cotta was used to ornament the garage. Although part of the building is no longer visible, the fire station itself has retained a great deal of integrity.

The name of the Casper Fire Station is spelled out as, Casper Fire Department Station 1, on a frieze located above the three segmental arch garage door openings on the fire station's facade. Heavy terra cotta surrounds accent the garage door openings and the base of each surround consists of granite. Although the garage doors themselves appear to be replacements, the space and feeling of the original doors has been maintained. Above the frieze is a secondary terra cotta cornice.

The windows on the upper story are triple units and there are three sets. The windows are steel awning double hung units with six lites over six lites. Substantial terra cotta mullions separate each unit. Terra cotta blocks irregularly spaced as part of the window surrounds are uncharacteristic of the symmetrical facade. Another simple terra cotta cornice is located below the crenelated parapet.

One of the most noteworthy features on the facade is the parapet with terra cotta coping. A terra cotta shield with the construction date of 1921 is placed in the center of the parapet. Although the original plans for the Fire Station were not located, a detail of this terra cotta coping, probably drawn by Sweeney, was found in the Jan Wilking collection housed in the Wyoming State Museum. A modern steel siren system has been placed more recently on the roof of the building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Casper Fire Dept. Station 1
name of property
Natrona County, Wyoming
County and State

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The south side and rear of the fire station was faced with common brick. A single door provides an entry on the side of the building. Three paired double hung windows with 6 lites over 6 lites with brick sills are located on the upper story. A smaller double hung unit with one lite over lite was also placed on the south side's upper wall. The parapet wall above the windows is stepped.

On the rear of the building, a garage door has been added. Three double hung windows, nine lites over nine lites, are adjacent to the garage door. Jack arches are located over these windows. Two original windows have been removed. On the upper story a large industrial window provides natural light with two additional double hung units.

According to an advertisement placed by the architectural firm in the "Casper Daily Tribune and the Wyoming Weekly Review's Industrial Edition" (January 22, 1922, pages 8 and 9), the municipal garage and fire station was "Built by Larsen and Jorgensen, Inc., general contractors. Terra cotta furnished by the Denver Terra Cotta company; electric work by Electric Supply and Construction company; all brick and terra cotta was installed by George W. Cottrell. Plumbing was done by John T. Bogan who also installed the Dunham system of vapor steam heating. All common brick furnished by the Casper brick and tile company. Roofing done by the Casper Sheet Metal Works." Fortunately the Fire station has been carefully maintained through the years so the work of these laborers is still evident.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Casper Fire Dept. Station 1
name of property
Natrona County, Wyoming
County and State

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The Casper Fire Station is both historically and architecturally significant. The construction of the fire station in 1921 marked a significant turning point in the community because it reflected a greater need for fire protection in an expanding population. A special committee was appointed by the City Council in April 1920 to study the need for new fire equipment such as: a La France aerial ladder truck, a 750 gallon pumper, a Gamewell fire alarm system, alarm boxes, gong signals, and the erection of a fire station and municipal garage. With the recommendation of the special committee, all the aforementioned fire protection equipment was purchased and the construction of a new fire station authorized. The City chose the noteworthy architectural firm of Garbutt, Weidner and Sweeney to design the new municipal garage and fire station. The fire station is associated with the growth and development of the City of Casper during the oil boom of 1914-1927; the building symbolizes how Casper changed from a small agricultural town with a volunteer fire department to a booming oil center with a paid fire protection staff. Now in 1993, there are very few free-standing historic fire stations that remain in Wyoming. The architectural character of the Casper fire station makes it an important building in both Casper and Wyoming and the station is therefore eligible to the National Register under criteria A and C.

Casper, Wyoming was incorporated in 1889 and for many years after the town operated with volunteer firemen. Incentives were given to individuals who served as volunteer firemen, for example, firemen were exempt from jury duty and were not charged for the water they consumed at their residence. As Casper grew, the volunteer fire department purchased equipment but the need for a paid staff became obvious. In May 1917, the volunteer fire department transferred all their equipment to the City of Casper, and petitioned the city government to establish a fire department. The City of Casper respected their wishes.

In April 1920, the special investigatory committee appointed by the City Council decided new equipment and a new building were appropriate because of the expanding population due to the Salt Creek oil boom. An \$85,000 bond issue was offered to raise the funds for the new building and equipment. In 1922, Alfred Mokler wrote, "During the past two years, the city of Casper invested \$85,000 in the erection of a new fire station and fire fighting equipment, and as a result, approximately \$30,000 per year will be saved on the reduction that will be made in insurance rates." By 1925, twelve of the twenty-two firemen were assigned to the David Street Station.

Over the years other fire stations were erected and used but the David Street Station is the only historic station that remains. The use of the municipal garage attached to the station changed and the garage became a retail establishment and at one point, according to historic photographs, sold Chevrolets. In 1942, the David Street station became the fire department headquarters and was later designated, sometime during the 1950s, as Fire Station #2. Today the building is no longer used as a fire station but, instead, houses some of the City's antique fire fighting equipment.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 4

Casper Fire Station
name of property
Natrona County, WY
County and State

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Casper College, Goodstein Foundation Library, Western History Collection:
Vertical Files

Casper Daily Tribune

City of Casper, Fire Department, "History" file.

Frank, Patrick. "Classicism in a Boomtown: The Architecture of Garbutt, Weidner,
and Sweeney in 1920s Casper." Unpublished manuscript available from the
author, 1992.

Mokler, Alfred J. "Chronology of Wyoming 1803 to 1932" Volume 2, Unpublished
manuscript, Mokler Collection, Casper College, Western History Collection

Mokler, Alfred J. History of Natrona County, Wyoming 1888-1922. Chicago: R. R.
Donnelley and Sons, Lakeside Press, 1923.

Wyoming State Museum, Jan Wilking Collection.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 5

Casper Fire Dept. Station 1
name of property

Natrona County, Wyoming
County and State

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Casper Fire Department Station 1 is located on lots 6, 7, and 8, block 1, Casper Addition and the building measures 42 feet by 80 feet.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary of this site is defined by the curb and gutter on South David Street, the alley behind the fire station, and the exterior wall next to the adjacent store and the fire station's exterior wall. The boundary includes only the two story Fire Station and no adjacent structures.