

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0668711

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RECEIVED MAY 11 1978

DATE ENTERED NOV 2 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Fire Station No. 5

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

419 Arthur Street, NW

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Knoxville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Tennessee

— VICINITY OF

CODE  
47

COUNTY

Knox

CODE

93

## CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Knoxville, Fire Department, Business Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

800 East Church

CITY, TOWN

Knoxville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Knox County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Gay and Main Streets

CITY, TOWN

Knoxville

STATE

Tennessee

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Knoxville Heritage

DATE

Summer 1977

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Ronald Childress, Architect, 524-A Gay Street

CITY, TOWN

Knoxville

STATE

Tennessee

# 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fire Station No. 5 stands in a late nineteenth-century residential area, approximately one mile northwest of downtown Knoxville. Built in 1907, the station has served the Mechanicsville section of the city, a neighborhood of one- and two-story frame and brick residences and a few commercial buildings.

This two-story, brick building has a symmetrical facade (southeast elevation) and a square floor plan. A square fire hose drying tower, with a pyramidal roof, rises from the center of the facade; this element is ornamented with a parapet-like base which has decorative scrolls. The building's plan, boxed cornice has simple block brackets and is found also on the tower. The low hip roof has a tall, thin decorated chimney near its southern corner and a plain chimney near the rear (northwest) wall; a stack which was located near the northeast wall has been removed. The original roofing material was replaced with asphalt shingles.

Large, deeply recessed equipment doors dominate the facade. A 1915 photograph shows that the original double-leaf doors opened outward; one of the present doors rolls up, and the other opening has been partially enclosed and has a large and a small door. Heavy, stone lintels, with a scroll and torch motif, surmount each opening. The northeast and southwest walls are similar in fenestration and ornamentation. The basket-arch windows have beige brick lintels; this polychrome effect appears also in the distinctive oval window and lintels of the facade and in the tower's round-head lintels and belt course. The rear wall has a single, large equipment door. A small, brick boiler room, which was attached to this wall, has been removed. Equipment employed to hoist hay up to the loft remains in evidence.

The first floor provides space for the fire fighting equipment, and the second housed the firemen's living quarters. Three brass firepoles and clothing lockers are still in the building. The interior has been changed little during the seventy-one years that the firehall has been in use.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fire companies in Knoxville at the turn of the century had a complement of five to seven men, four horses, a steam pumper and a hose wagon. When the alarm sounded the horses were taken from stalls in the rear of the station and hitched to the equipment. A gas pilot light ignited the firebox of the engine, and when the steamer reached the scene of the fire there was sufficient pressure to pump water to fight the blaze. In 1917 Knoxville replaced its steam-powered, horse-drawn equipment with motorized fire engines. Fire Station No. 5, which was built in 1907 at a cost of \$10,550, is the oldest fire station in Knoxville and the only remaining firehall designed to house horse-drawn fire fighting machines. Moreover, it is one of the remaining two fire stations which still has brass fire poles and the only one with a fire hose drying tower.

Fire Station No. 5, like similar facilities in most urban neighborhoods, has served and continues to function as an information center for the Mechanicsville area, a densely populated section of Knoxville with a confusing complex of intersecting streets. People still stop at the station seeking directions and other information.

Most public buildings are designed with function as the main criterion; Fire Hall No. 5 satisfied this requirement and continues to operate as an integral part of the Knoxville Fire Department. Although utilitarian in design, this stylistically eclectic building is an architectural landmark in the Mechanicsville neighborhood. Except for the removal of one chimney and part of another, modifications in the equipment doors, and removal of the boiler room, the building has largely retained its original appearance.

The Knoxville Fire Department intends to phase out Fire Station No. 5 within a year or two, however, the city will retain ownership of the building. Preliminary plans are being prepared to rehabilitate the station and convert it into a community center.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information provided by Mrs. Gloria Neel, Research Associate, Housing Research and Development Center, University of Tennessee School of Architecture, Knoxville, TN  
Knoxville Fire Department Installations. Knoxville: Knoxville Fire Department  
Knoxville News-Sentinel, July 29, 1951  
1900 Yearbook. Knoxville: Knoxville Fire Department.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.25

QUADRANGLE NAME Knoxville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 235570 3984320

B         

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a 100-foot square lot; beginning at the intersection of McGhee Avenue and Arthur Street; thence approximately 100 feet southwest along Arthur Street; thence approximately 100 feet northwest; thence approximately 100 feet northeast to

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

McGhee Avenue; thence southeast along McGhee Avenue approximately 100 feet to the beginning

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION

Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

May 1978

STREET & NUMBER

170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE

615-741-2371

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL X

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

*Herbert E. Hayden*

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

5/9/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Bill Lebonich*

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

11/2/78

DATE

23/1978