

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0668711

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 11 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 2 1978

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

SEE 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 & NUMBER
419 Arthur Street, NW

CITY, TOWN
Knoxville

STATE
Tennessee

VICINITY OF
CODE 47

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

COUNTY
Knox

CODE
93

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of Knoxville, Fire Department, Business Office

STREET & NUMBER
800 East Church

CITY, TOWN
Knoxville

STATE
Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Knox County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Gay and Main Streets

CITY, TOWN
Knoxville

STATE
Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Knoxville Heritage

DATE
Summer 1977

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Ronald Childress, Architect, 524-A Gay Street

CITY, TOWN
Knoxville

STATE
Tennessee

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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

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			UTM REFERENCES		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17	235570	39	84	320
C					
E					
G					

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

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

STREET & NUMBER
 170 Second Avenue North

CITY OR TOWN
 Nashville

DATE
 May 1978

TELEPHONE
 615-741-2371

STATE
 Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL 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 *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 *W. H. ...* DATE 11/2/78

ATTEST: *Bill Lebanich* DATE 23/1978

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION *Bill Lebanich*