

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

For NPS use only

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

received APR 28 1987

date entered NA 29 1987

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

1. Name

historic Highland Hose #4

and or common Exempt Hall

2. Location

street & number 72 - 74 Halstead Street N/A not for publication

city, town Kearny vicinity of

state New Jersey code 034 county Hudson code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Kearny

street & number 402 Kearny Avenue

city, town Kearny vicinity of state New Jersey 07032

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hudson County Administration Building

street & number 595 Newark Avenue

city, town Jersey City state New Jersey 07306

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Highland Hose #4 building is a late 19th century brick two story two bay structure, fronting on Halstead Street. The front of the building is comprised of smooth hard burned clay bricks set in thin mortar joints. Executed in the Romanesque style, the facade is well proportioned and extremely attractive. The focal points are two main arched head doorways still cradling the original heavy timber doors. Each doorway has a set of doors swinging out and hung on heavy H & L hinges. These doors are still operable and are constructed of wood. Alongside each doorway are arrays of narrow, projecting brick pilasters. There are four in the center and three to either side of the door, and all are set on heavy projecting bluestone bases with classic proportions. Each set of columns is topped by an architrave decorated with acanthus leaves. Springing from the architraves are the segmental Roman arches with rounded nosing at the soffit. The arches are embellished with a circular shaped brick cornice decorated with leaf buds. All of these shapes are made of the same red clay molded precisely and fitted together. Above the twin doorway arches is a projecting bluestone base for the upper colonnade. Above this base and to the side of a vertical centerline is a nicely proportioned arched head wood sash. Resting on the cornice and to the left and right of the two sash are four pilasters with rounded edges. These pilasters again have embellished architraves with the acanthus leaves repeated. There apparently existed a decorative metal frieze and cornice with an arched design. This was replaced with brickwork at some time in the past. The two sash in the second story have a bluestone sill and segmented brick arched head. These arches are decorated with a projecting shaped border. The basement is rubble stone approximately 12" thick and in very good condition. Heavy brick columns support the girders and floor above.

On the interior, the first floor, which was the original apparatus room, was recently decorated with wide vertical wood boards painted white. It now contains a meeting room and display of memorabilia. The second floor, which was the dormitory, is now used for meetings and display of memorabilia, and boasts the original decorated metal ceiling with embellished metal corners around the perimeter. Other original features include the door and window surrounds and the narrow board wainscoting.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1894 **Builder/Architect** Henry J. King

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1894, Highland Hose #4 is the oldest extant firehouse in Kearny, and a well-preserved local example of late nineteenth century public architecture. An important reminder of the fire fighting techniques of the late 19th - early 20th century, Highland Hose #4 played an instrumental role in the protection of Kearny's real estate for over a quarter of a century and continues to recognize the contributions of its volunteer and paid firefighters by functioning as an exempt fire hall. Small in size and scale, the building nonetheless pays considerable attention to architectural detail and represents the civic pride with which local residents approached construction of public buildings.

From 1880, the Town of Kearny was served by a volunteer fire department supported by private donations. A single fire company located near the Arlington railroad depot, served the needs of the entire community. The inadequacy of this situation was made alarmingly clear during the disastrous fire of 1887. On January 4, 1888, the Kearny Fire Department was organized by unanimous vote of the Kearny Township Committee. Plans called for the Arlington Volunteer Truck Company, now part of the department, to be supplemented by three additional stations. Rapid population growth in Kearny during the late 19th century, forced the commissioning of an additional company in 1889 and Highland Hose #4 in 1892. Highland Hose #4 is the only one of these early firehouses in Kearny still surviving.

In August 1892, Chief Walter Walsh of the Kearny Fire Department, detailed Assistant Foreman Bell of Truck #1 to organize a reserve hose company to cover the middle section of the Township, as well as to assist the other companies of the department. Plans presented at a community meeting held shortly thereafter were enthusiastically received and a petition of 30 signatures subsequently presented to the Board of Engineers and the Township Committee. The signers formed a permanent organization on September 14, 1892.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. James Joule, Chairman of the Fire Committee, the Township Committee passed an ordinance organizing an active company to be known as Hose Company # 4, K.F.D., at the same time passing a resolution ordering the Fire Committee to purchase a two-wheeler jumper and a house for it. Mr. Henry C. Green, a member of the Township Committee, offered the use of a lot on which to place the house, located on Highland Avenue, north of Berlin Street, under the old Button Ball Tree, with the proviso that should the lot be sold the house would have to be removed. Later at one of the meetings of the new organization, Mr. John W. Roche offered to give a lease to the Township for five years for the nominal rent of \$2 per year, two lots on south side of Halstead

9. Major Bibliographical References

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Committee, The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary
Kearny Fire Department, July 4th & 5th, 1913

Am. Revolution Bicentennial Committee of Kearny, "This Is Your Town, Kearny!", Kearny Museum,

10. Geographical Data

November 7, 1977.

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Orange

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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4	5	1	2	5	2	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Present Block 48, Lot 12
Old Tax Map Block 44, Lot 475-476

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Dougan, Jessie Hipp, Edward Grosvenor

organization Exempt Historical Preservation Committee date June 25, 1986

street & number 645 Kearny Avenue telephone (201) 997-0600

city or town Kearny state New Jersey 07032

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.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Allen J. Sequeira

title Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources

date April 20, 1987

For NPS use only

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

entered in the
National Register

date 5-29-87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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Hudson County, New Jersey

Street on which the present fire house is now located. This offer was submitted to the Township Committee who accepted it and afterward purchased the property in compliance with the ordinance. The new company immediately got to work as an active company and on October 14th, 1892, received a two-wheeler jumper and 400 feet of hose. On the tool box was the name Highland No. 4, K.F.D., the name given by Mr. James Joule, Chairman of the Fire Committee, in the assumption that it would be located on Highland Avenue. The name was adopted unanimously by the company at the regular meeting as well as the motto "Always Ready". On October 17th, 1892, the company met at the old Kearny fire house and were mustered into the Kearny Fire Department by the Board of Engineers as Highland Hose Company #4, K.F.D., and each member received his badge and membership. At the same time they received the order to participate in the first parade of the department on October 21st.

In December, 1892, the company rigged up a gallows frame in the rear of the jumper house to which they suspended a locomotive tire, donated by the Erie Railroad, as a fire alarm. It was just hung in time to ring the old year out and the new year in. In the latter part of 1893, the Township Committee gave out a contract for the construction of a modern brick fire house for Hose #4, the first of its kind in West Hudson, and, after considerable delay, it was turned over to the company by the Board of Engineers on the evening of October 29th, 1895.

In September, 1895, the committee was appointed to confer with other companies of the department advocating a telegraphic communication or such other modern fire alarm system that would do away with the jingle of bells of the antiquated system then in use. The following year another innovation took place toward modernizing the department -- a new and fully equipped hose wagon, with tongue, shafts and pole able to carry 1000 feet of hose and which could be drawn by hand or horse -- was turned over to the company. In September, 1898, the Fire Committee of the Town Council turned over to the company the first set of swinging team harness for fire use.

The city-wide Gamewell Fire Alarm System was contracted for in July, 1899, and the Highland Hose House was made headquarters for the switchboard of the system. The system was turned over and tested on August 8th, 1899. In 1909 a chemical combination wagon was ordered and, on Christmas Day, was delivered to the company and placed in commission. It was one of the finest and latest improved of chemical combinations, horse drawn, that had been built up to that date.

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

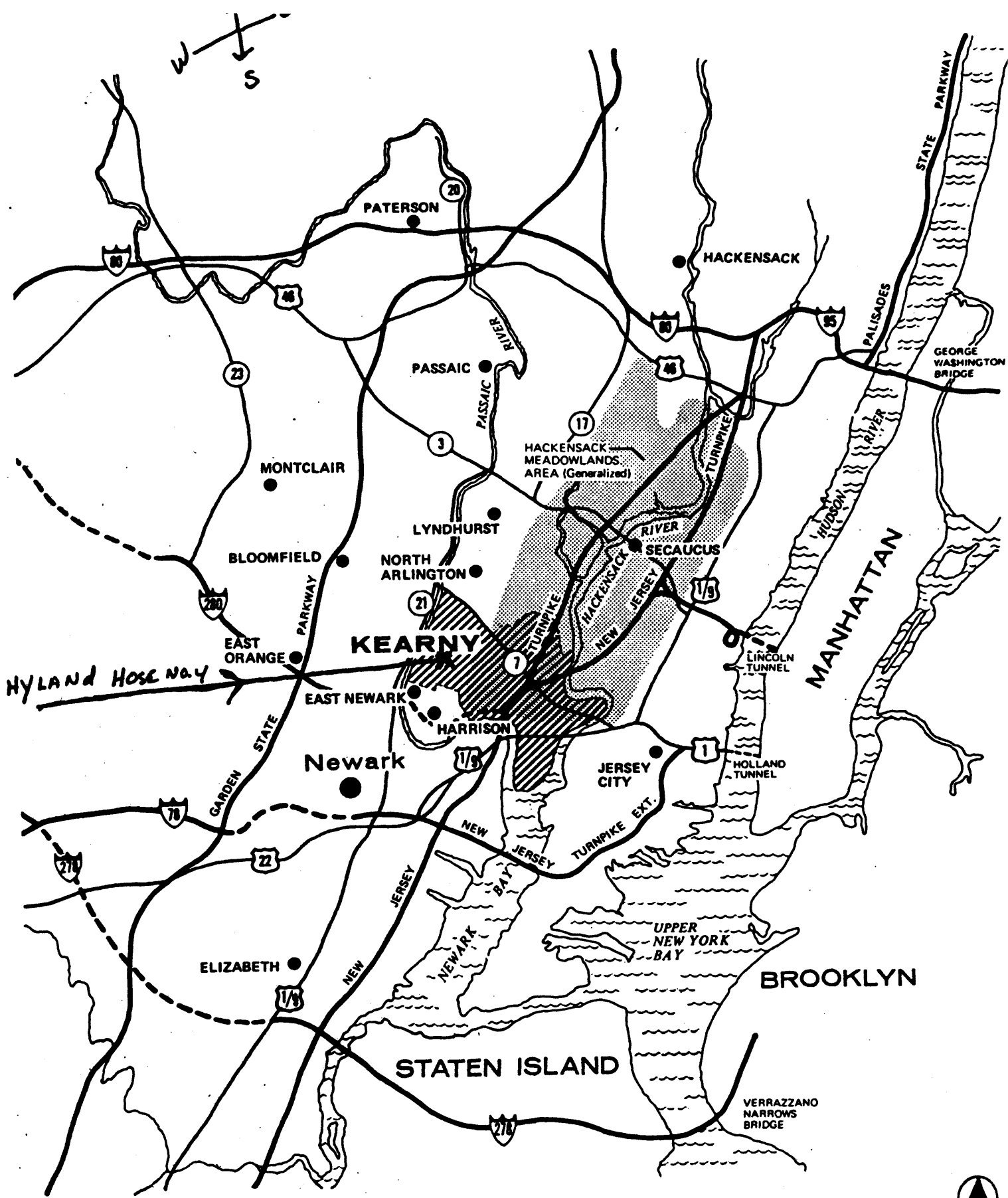
Section number 8 Page 2 Highland Hose #4
Kearny Town, Hudson County, New Jersey

In the severe winter of 1893 and 1894, when the poorer classes were suffering in want, the company appointed a Relief Committee who aided and relieved those in need. They also instituted what the members called a reunion, which took place on New Year's Eve, when the wives and children of the members were gathered together in celebration.

In 1922, due to the existence of a number of newer stations, municipal leaders felt that Highland Hose #4 was no longer needed as an active fire station. The facility was subsequently leased and utilized by the Exempt Firemen's Association which operates a portion of it as a firemen's museum.

Architect

Henry J. King, documented architect of Highland Hose #4 was born in 1873. Educated by the Christian Brothers at Saint Patrick's School, he later attended the Newark Technical School. His first job was in the office of Jeremiah O' Rourke, Newark architect. Later he and his brother had their own firm, J.J. & J.V. King, Architects. They were located originally on Market Street and later at 972 Broad Street, Newark. Henry J. King supervised construction of several schools and buildings including the Nurse's Home at City Hospital in Newark and the City Home in Verona. He died on September 9, 1939.



Highland Hose #4
 Kearny Town
 Hudson County, New Jersey

REGIONAL LOCATION

Highland Hose #4
Kearny Town
Hudson County, NJ

SITE PLAN
HIGHLAND HOSE NO. 4

