

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAY 10 1989

National Register of Historic Places
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MUNCIE MRA

FIRE STATION NO. 1
421 East Jackson Street
Muncie, Indiana 47305
1913Owner: City of Muncie
220 East Jackson Street
Muncie, Indiana 47305

DESCRIPTION:

Building #181, Photo #97

The building is a two-story, flat roofed structure. The main facade, facing north, has three garage bays on the first story. The first story is veneered with alternating rusticated and dressed limestone banding, which extends to the sill level of the upper story. A dentil course and cornice complete the first story. The second story and sidewalls are of buff face brick. Five symmetrically placed openings define the second story. A continuous, channeled, shouldered lintel/belt course marks the window openings.

A full entablature of sheet metal caps the building. It features a dentil course. Rising above the entablature is a brick parapet with a stone tablet in the center flanked by consoles. The tablet reads "No. 1 FIRE STATION." The basement houses a recreation area. The first floor serves as storage for equipment and engines, and the second floor has living quarters. A modern addition to the west has offices and an extra garage bay.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Fire Station No. 1 is locally significant under criterion A as an example of the ongoing services city government provided for the development of Muncie. No. 1 is the only remaining historic fire station in the city, and is one of only three governmental buildings remaining in Muncie. The restrained Neo-Classical Revival facade of No. 1 is indicative of the governmental function of the building, and it is among the better examples of this style in Muncie.

Fire Station No. 1 is important under the Politics/Governmental area of significance. City services, such as fire houses, were vital to the growth and stability of Muncie's economy. As the only historic resource in the city of its type, No. 1 is a significant property.

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The building has been altered by the removal of a rear hose tower and window replacements, however, the structural openings on the main and east facades have not been altered in placement or size. Furthermore, the character-defining elements of the building - its rusticated stonework, shouldered lintels and Classical metal cornice - remain in place. Given the unique nature of this resource, it has sufficient integrity to be considered eligible for the National Register.

Cuno Kibele was the chief architect for the 1913 fire station. It was constructed by the City of Muncie for \$22,540. The contractor was Leslie Colvin of Brookville, Indiana. When the structure was completed, it was declared a model fire station by fire chiefs, boards of safety, and insurance men throughout the state. It originally featured cherry red doors and sash trim color.

Geographical Data:

Acreage: Less than one acre

UTM Reference: 16637 750 4450 180

Map Boundary: Map #11-15E, Block #104, Parcel #004