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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Engine House #6, located at the angle where Gay and Ensor Streets meet, is an architectural landmark in its neighborhood. Its 103-foot brick Italian-Gothic tower is said to be a copy of Giotto's campanile in Florence, Italy. The main door at the base of the tower is within a pointed stone arch and the spandrel contains a quatrefoil with the number six in the center. The first story was altered in 1874 by applying a stone facade. The tower gives a feeling of openness because of the repetition of Gothic arched windows piercing it. Projecting stringcourses separate each of the five stories and effectively break the verticality. At the top, there is a three-face clock and a wooden cornice supporting an elaborately carved balustrade.

The remainder of the building is two stories high with seven bays on each street side and a simple wooden cornice. There is also a projecting stringcourse between the floors, repeating the motif of the tower courses.

The building was painted for a long time, but has recently been cleaned by sandblasting and pointing. It remains a focal point in the city because of its tower and clock which are visible for miles.



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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	📋 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applical	ble and Known)	4-54	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	🔀 Other (Specify)
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Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Independent Fire Company engine house pre-dates the Baltimore City Fire Department itself, Built in 1853-1854 by the architects Reasin and Wetherald, it was the third building erected by this volunteer fire fighters group to house its equipment. In 1858, when the city established a paid Fire Department, The building was purchased for \$8,000 and is the only engine house remaining from that era, unchanged, and in Today, the area surrounding continuous use as a fire station. Engine House #6 is included in the Oldtown Urban Renewal District, and plans are progressing rapidly for levelling most of the neighborhood. This building should be preserved as a vital link with the past and, to this end, city planners have proposed that it be used as a small museum of the history of fire In addition, the period of time which it represents fighting. was important in the city's history, for it was built in the day when volunteer fire companies reached the peak of their rivalries and gave Baltimore its notorious name, "Mobtown."



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	Date August 21, 1972						Date	J.J.	eme	5,19	73	,		

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Form	10-300a
(July	1969)

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number	all	entries)

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks State x

Maryland Historical Trust 2525 Riva Road Annapolis, Maryland 21401



B-37

DATE

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Baltimore City

ENTRY NUMBER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

