### United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

### 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 Plymouth Fire Station

and/or common Location 2. street & number 220 North Center Street not for publication vicinity of congressional district city, town Plymouth 1 2nd Indiana code state 018 county Marshall code 099 Classification 3, **Ownership Present Use** Category Status X occupied <u>X</u> public \_ district \_ agriculture museum  $\frac{1}{10}$  building(s) private unoccupied \_\_ commercial park structure both work in progress \_ educational private residence \_ site **Public Acquisition** Accessible entertainment religious \_\_ object in process \_ yes: restricted X government scientific being considered \_X\_yes: unrestricted industrial \_ transportation no military other: **Owner of Property** 4. City of Plymouth name 124 North Michigan Street street & number **Plymouth** Indiana 46563 city, town vicinity of state Location of Legal Description 5. courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marshall County Recorder's Office 601 North Center Street street & number **Plymouth** city, town state Indiana **Representation in Existing Surveys** 6. title has this property been determined elegible? \_ \_yes \_X\_no NONE date federal state county local

depository for survey records

## 7. Description

Cond	lition
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Check one \_ excellent deteriorated \_\_\_ unaltered X altered \_X\_\_good ruins fair \_ unexposed <u>...</u> 12

**Check one** X original site date \_

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Plymouth Fire Station is a painted brick structure, facing west on Center Street in the heart of downtown Plymouth. The building stands two stories high, with a 59-foot bell tower on its southwest corner. The ground level of the main facade has a roundarched pedestrian entrance and large overhead door on the main building, and another pedestrian entrance in the bell tower. The bell tower entrance has a four-light window directly above the door.

The second story of the main facade has three four-over-four windows in the main building, with rounded corners on the heads. Heads and sills are of brick. An identical window is located in the bell tower.

Above the center window is a stone that reads "Engine House, 1875." The main building is topped by a parapet on the facade, with tile coping. On the bell tower is a circular opening, now filled in by a blank panel. The tower is capped with a square open pavilion, formed by square columns supporting a bracketed cornice.

The south side of the building has three bays, with windows like those on the front. A one-story addition obscures the ground floor. The north side has openings only on the rear portion, and also has a one-story addition the full length, with an overhead door.

Changes to the exterior include the overhead door, which replaced two smaller arched openings, as well as the two one-story additions. Also, the parapet was changed from a simple rectangle to a stepped wall.

Inside, the first floor originally consisted of one large room in which the fire fighting equipment was kept. The floor was designed with grooves in it to provide traction for the horses as they raced to answer an alarm. The upper story of the new building had two rooms, one for the use of the fire department, and the other used as a city council chamber and Mayor's office.

### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	• • •	Check and justify below community plannin conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlen industry invention	ng landscape architectur law literature military music nent philosophy	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation _X_ other (specify) Firefighting
Specific dates	1875	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Robert McCance and W.P	5 5

#### **Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

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The Plymouth Fire Station is historically significant as the city's only fire station from its construction in 1875 until a new station was built in 1980.

The building was constructed by contractors Robert McCance and W. P. Beaton in late 1875, for a cost of \$4,200. Possession of the building was taken by the city on February 21, 1876, and the dedication was marked with a grand ball. In its early years, the building also served as the town hall, with offices for the fire department and the mayor.

The building is significant to the community as one of the oldest in the town, and for its continuous use as the only fire station in Plymouth for 105 years. The building presently houses the City's ambulance service.

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# 9. Major Bibliographical References

McDonald, Daniel, <u>History of Marshall County</u>, <u>Indiana</u>: <u>1836-1880</u>, Chicago: Kingman Brothers 1881.

Durnan, Mary, "From Buckets to Snorkles: A History of the Plymouth Fire Department," <u>The</u> <u>Marshall County Historical Society Quarterly</u>.Plymouth: The Marshall County Historical Society,

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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January, 1976, and April, 1976.

JANUARY, 1976 Vol. V, No. 1

# THE MARSHALL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY



This month the Historical Society salutes the 100th birthday of the Plymouth Fire Station building. Constructed in 1875 at a cost of \$4,200 and changed little architecturally in the intervening years, the building has served the community well. Probably taken in the spring of 1876, the photo shows the completed building, proud members of the fire companies in uniform, their various pieces of fire fighting equipment and, perched on the fence to the right, young boys of the town who, then as now, had a special

ABOUT OUR COVER PHOTO.....

fascination with this exciting aspect of community life.