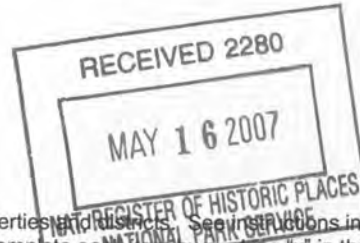


593

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Engine Company No. 25

other names Chemical Engine Company No. 5; Congress Heights Firehouse

2. Location

street & number 3203 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE. not for publication

city or town Washington, D.C. vicinity

state District of Columbia code DC county _____ code 001 zip code 20001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

DAVID MALONEY, ACTING STPD 4-20-2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 6-27-07
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Engine Company No. 25
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- Private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Firehouses in Washington, D.C.: 1806-1945

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Firehouse

GOVERNMENT/Firehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Mediterranean Revival

foundation Brick
walls Brick

roof Red tile
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company No. 25

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Description Summary:

Engine Company No. 25 is a two-story with tower freestanding Mediterranean Revival-style brick firehouse located at 3203 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue in southeast Washington, D.C. Built in 1901-1902, the building was the first firehouse to be produced by the Office of the Inspector of Buildings under the tenure of Snowden Ashford, who would in 1909, become the city's first Municipal Architect. The building is striking in appearance, particularly for its tall, four-story central tower and belfry and its Spanish tile roof. With its variety of details, including Renaissance Revival touches such as arches, quoins, and voussoirs, its wide eaves and Spanish tile roof, and its late Romanesque corbelling, the building's overall appearance suggests a free interpretation of medieval, rural, Italian architecture that has been classified here more broadly as Mediterranean Revival style.¹

General Description:

Exterior:

Engine Company No. 25, a two-story symmetrical structure executed in dark-red brick and measuring 60' by 100' is one of the city's larger firehouses. Its principal elevation, facing Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, is divided into three wide bays, with a 60-foot hose tower on center, rising well above the roofline of the main block of the building. The firehouse was one of the city's first to have a hose tower as a prominent feature of the facade. The four-story tower features a large arched opening on the first story articulated by simulated rusticated piers and voussoirs, all of brick; a recessed brick panel with corbelling above and forming the tower shaft; and an open loggia at the top, capped by a broad hipped tower roof with overhanging eaves supported by wood brackets. Blind arcading separates the upper level of the tower from the loggia, while another row of blind arcading below it frames the top of the recessed brick panel on the shaft of the tower that includes the building's name "Engine 25." The center door of the tower has been enclosed with brick and the space inside is now used as a control center. Also, two wood columns *in antis* which historically framed the openings of the loggia are no longer intact.

To either side of the center tower at the first story are large apparatus door openings on the first story and pairs of double-hung windows above with four-light diamond-paned sash in the upper sash. Brick quoining frames the edges of the building at the first story level, and a brick stringcourse separates the first from the second story. The main body of the firehouse is covered by a red clay tile hipped roof.

¹ Engine Company 25 bears a striking resemblance to the buildings at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, only a mile away, that were part of a campus design of fifteen buildings constructed in 1902—the same year this firehouse was built—and designed by the Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge. It seems highly probable that Snowden Ashford derived his design for the firehouse from the designs of the Boston firm.

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Engine Company No. 25

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

A one-story brick addition was made to the east side of the building sometime after World War II and renovations on the interior are currently underway. Today, the house includes an engine, a truck, and one of the busiest ambulances in the city.

Interior:

Because it was built as a "triple house" (i.e. to house three engines), the interior is more commodious than most other Washington firehouses. The first floor is an open plan allowed by steel piers and trusses, and divided into three long bays, extending from the façade door openings almost to the rear of the main block of the building, to accommodate three fire engines. Historically, five horse stalls were located at the rear of these engine bays. The second floor accommodates the bunkroom, with space for 15 bunks shown on the original plans. A stair in the hose tower at this second level provides access to the upper reaches of the tower. Fire poles are located at each structural bay connecting the two principal floors.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our History.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Community Planning and Development
-
-
-
-

Period of Significance

1901-1957

Significant Dates

1901-1902; 1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Snowden Ashford

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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Engine Company No. 25

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The context for firehouses is described in the National Register Multiple Property Listing: *Firehouses in Washington, D.C.: 1806-1945*. Engine Company No. 25 was constructed in 1901-02 for the District of Columbia's professional firefighting force during the second period of firehouse construction known as the "Eclectic" period. The building is an exemplar of the eclectic, high-style firehouses created in this period and is the product of Snowden Ashford who would become the Municipal Architect, and thus responsible for the design of many of the city's firehouses. The firehouse has been a visual landmark of Congress Heights since its construction. The building meets Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register with Architecture as the Area of Significance. The Period of Significance extends from 1901 when the building was constructed until 1957, a point fifty years in the past from the present.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Originally named Chemical Company 5 (also, the Congress Heights Chemical Company) this firehouse was built in 1901-1902 in the emerging suburb of Congress Heights in southeast Washington, D.C. The District Commissioners sited the firehouse building on land donated for the purposes of a firehouse by Colonel Arthur Randle, real estate speculator and developer of much of the surrounding neighborhoods. Randle's motivation was obvious; the construction of a firehouse in this outlying area beyond the reach of municipal water or the call-box system would increase the confidence of prospective land purchasers and homebuyers. The building was initially designed to accommodate a chemical company, referred to as the Congress Heights Company, or Chemical Company 5. By 1916, the building was occupied by Engine Company 25 and Truck Company 8 and has since then been called Engine Company 25.

This firehouse contained only the second in the city combination observation/hose tower, an architecturally impressive feature of the building. The tower was provided as yet there was no call-box alarm system in the vicinity connected with the city fire department. The tower was equipped with a bell to alert the neighborhood to the direction of the fire and a pulley system for hauling up the hoses where they would be heated to dry more quickly.² The building is also the first three-bay house, not matched until Engine Company 20 in Tenleytown added a side addition for a new truck in 1913, and not surpassed until the four-bay Engine 16 (1018 13th Street, NW) was constructed in 1932. Other innovations of the building included the first steel truss roof, obviating obstructive piers in the plan and allowing the first floor to be completely open.

It has the clearest firehouse iconography of all Washington firehouses. The tower rises to a height of sixty feet and affords sweeping views of the surrounding area. Built on a hillock, it would seem that the site was chosen for observation purposes. By 1902, however, the sophistication of the city's fire-alarm

² *The Washington Post*, July 15, 1902.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Engine Company No. 25

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

system obviated the need for observation towers. The Crystal System invented 1864, consisted of twenty-five alarm boxes or "call boxes" which transmitted signals to Fire Alarm Headquarters which then transmitted the number of the call box to the fire stations, as well as activating the bells in church steeples.³ The hilltop location was probably chosen, instead, so that the horses could run downhill when responding to alarms.⁴

Snowden Ashford is credited with the design of at least two other firehouses: Old Engine Company 12, constructed in 1897 at 1626 North Capitol Street, NW and Engine Company 28, constructed in 1916 at 3522 Connecticut Avenue, NW (a contributing building in the Cleveland Park Historic District).

Ashford was born in Washington in 1866 and received his education at Lehigh University and Lafayette College. After graduation, he worked briefly as City Surveyor in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He worked on federal projects under Alfred B. Mullett as Supervising Architect of the Treasury and with John L. Smithmeyer of Smithmeyer and Pelz, the firm that designed the Library of Congress. In 1892 he helped found the Washington Architectural Club and was an early member of the Washington Chapter of the AIA.

³ Fire Fighters' Association. One Hundred Years of Glory: A History of the District of Columbia Fire Department, 1871-1971. Washington, D.C.: Mt. Vernon Publishing Company, Inc., 1971.

⁴ Interview with Firefighter Jack Gerhart.

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

Engine Company No. 25

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

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Section 9 Page 5

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- Holmes, Theodore, Chief. Interview, October 10, 1991.
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- McCarl, Robert. The District of Columbia Fire Fighter's Project, A Case Study in Occupational Folklife. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1985.
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Engine Company No. 25

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 9 Page 6

Washington Star Archives, Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

Withey, Henry R. and Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

Zurier, Rebecca. The American Firehouse: an Architectural and Social History. New York: Abbeville Press, Inc., 1982.

Engine Company No. 25
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7,597 square feet

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8 Zone	3 2 6 3 4 7 Easting	4 3 0 1 0 4 6 Northing	3			
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Berk, Architectural Historian; Kim Williams (edited, 2007), Architectural Historian

Organization The Capitol Fire Museum date June 2001

street & number 2214 Wyoming Avenue, NW telephone _____

city or town Washington, D.C. state _____ zip code 20008

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- X A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- X A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- X Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name District of Columbia Fire Department

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company No. 25

Name of Property

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Section 10 Page 7

Verbal Boundary Description:

Chemical Engine Company No. 5 occupies Lot 803 in Square 5990 in the District of Columbia. The lot is located at 3203 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.

Boundary Justification:

Chemical Engine Company No. 5 has been associated with this lot since construction of the firehouse on the site in 1901-1902.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 25

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is common to all photographs:

Engine Company 25
2715 22nd Street, NE
Washington, D.C.
Keith Lambert, photographer
April 2007
DC Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO)

- 1) View looking northwest showing south (front) and east elevations
1/5
- 2) View looking northeast showing south (front) and west elevations
2/5
- 3) View looking south showing north (rear) elevation
3/5
- 4) View looking west showing east elevation
4/5
- 5) View looking southeast showing west elevation
5/5

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

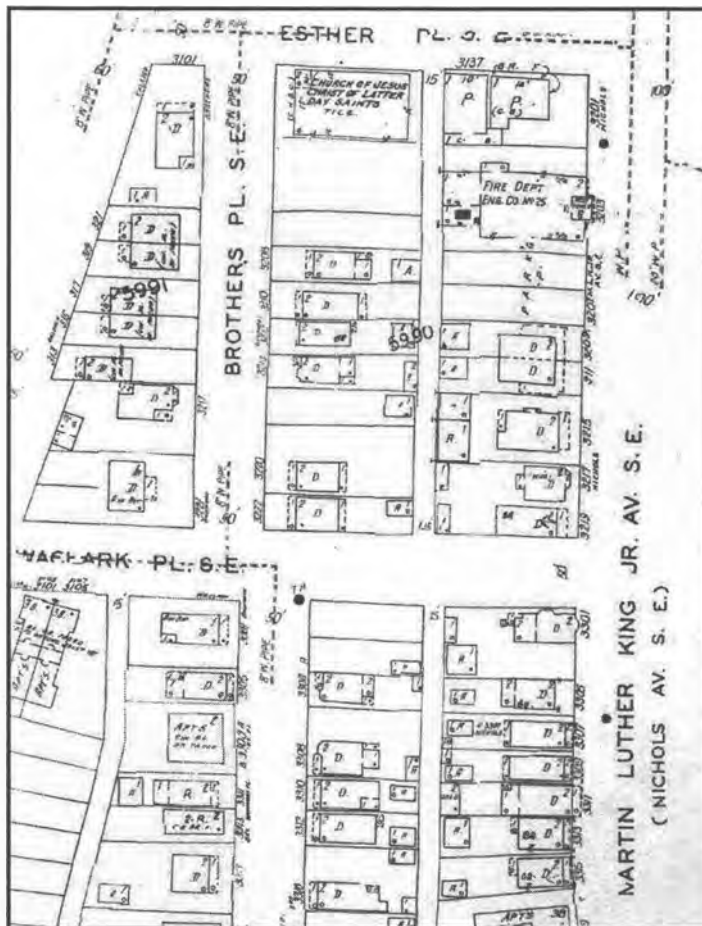
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 25
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

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SITE MAP



Engine Company 25
3203 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C.
(From Sanborn Map, 1991)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Engine Company 25
Name of Property

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County and State

HISTORIC PHOTOS



Historic Photo of Engine Company 21 (circa 1950)
(From the Collection of Jackson Gearhart)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

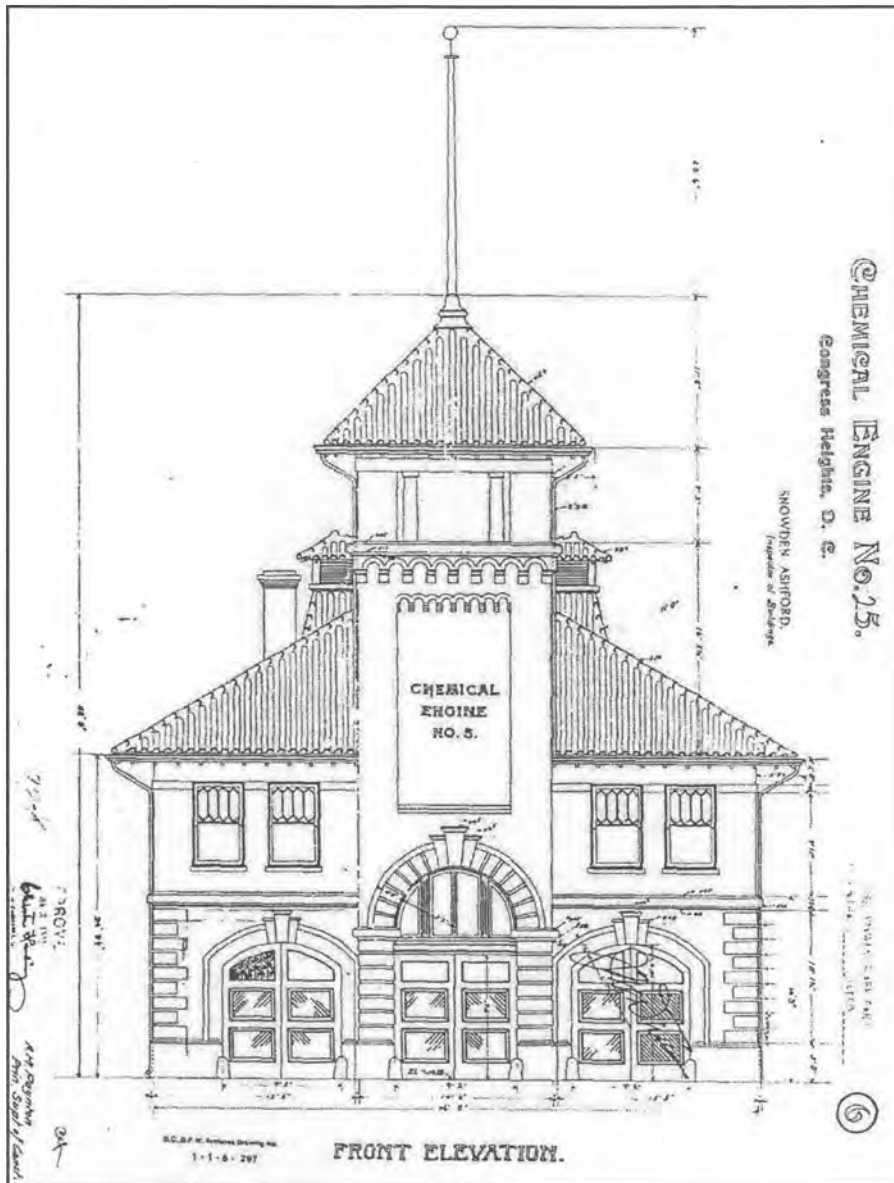
Engine Company 25

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

HISTORIC IMAGES



Elevational Drawing of Engine Company 25 (1901)
(From the Collection of Jackson Gearhart)

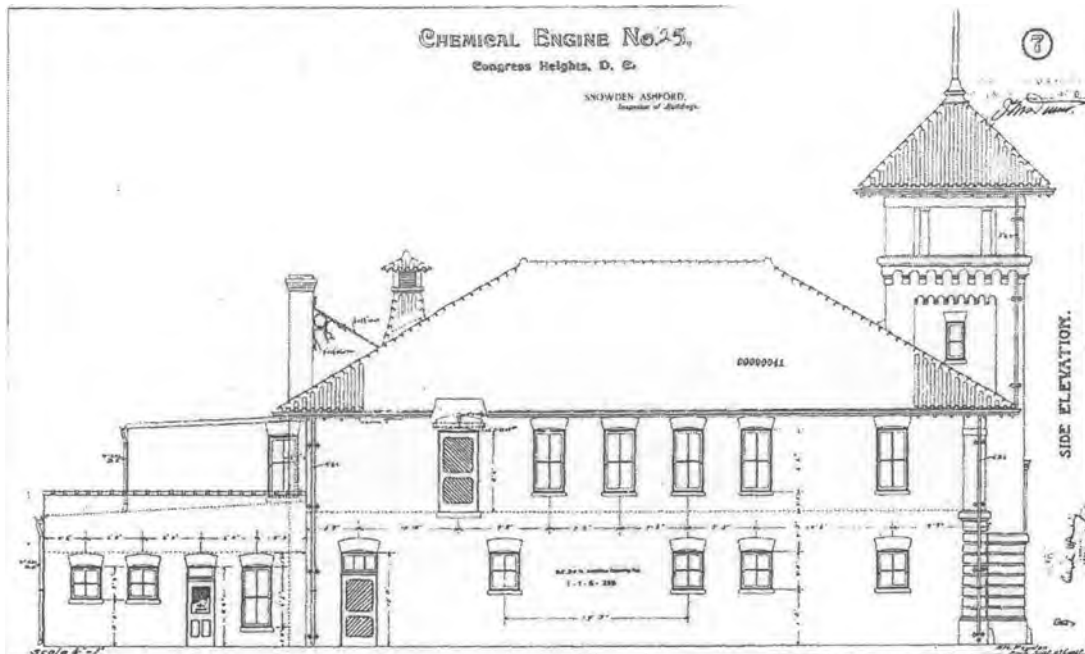
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 25
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

HISTORIC IMAGES



Elevational Drawing of Engine Company 25 (1901)
(From the Collection of Jackson Gearhart)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

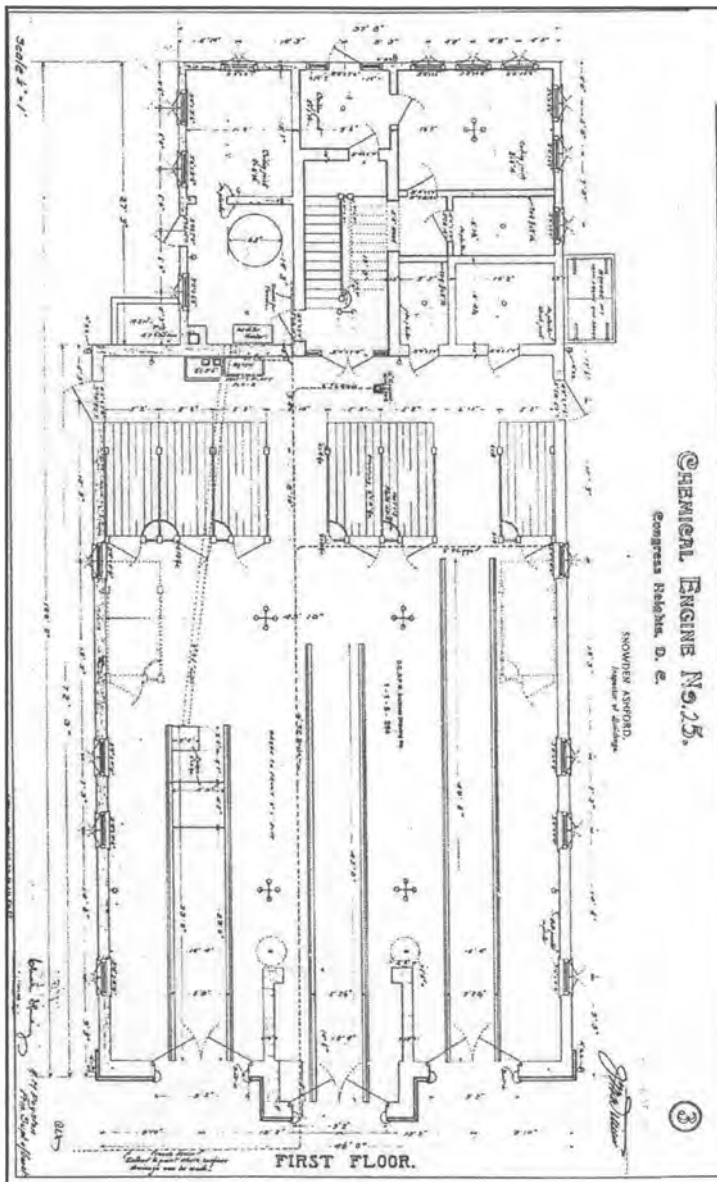
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 25
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

HISTORIC IMAGES



Floor Plan of Engine Company 25 (1901)
(From the Collection of Jackson Gearhart)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Engine Company No. 25
NAME:

MULTIPLE Firehouses in Washington DC MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 5/16/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/05/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/20/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/29/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000593

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6.27.07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in the
National Register**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Engine Company 25

Washington, DC

Keith Lambert

April 2007

DC HPO

View looking northwest showing south (front) and east elevations

1/5



ENGINE
LADDER

Engine Company 25

Washington, DC

Keith Lambert

April 2007

DC HPO

View looking northeast showing south (front) and west elevations

2/5



Engine Company 25

Washington, DC

Keith Lambert

April 2007

DC HPO

View looking south showing north (rear) elevation

3/5



Engine Company 25

Washington, DC

Keith Lambert

April 2007

DC HPO

View looking west showing east elevation

4/5



Engine Company 25

Washington, DC

Keith Lambert

April 2007

DC HPO

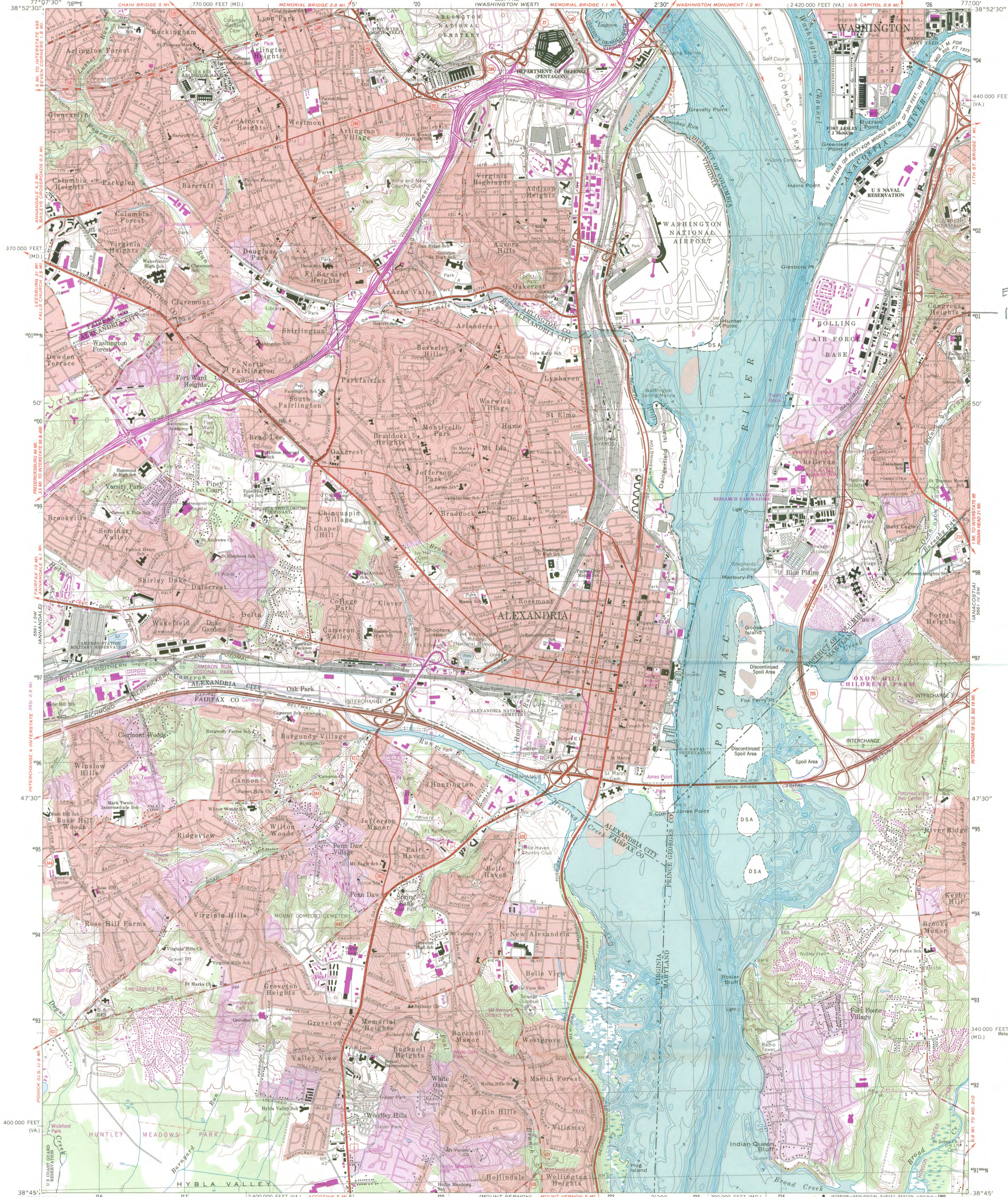
View looking west showing east elevation

5/5

Engine Company No. 25
 3203 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., SE
 Washington, DC

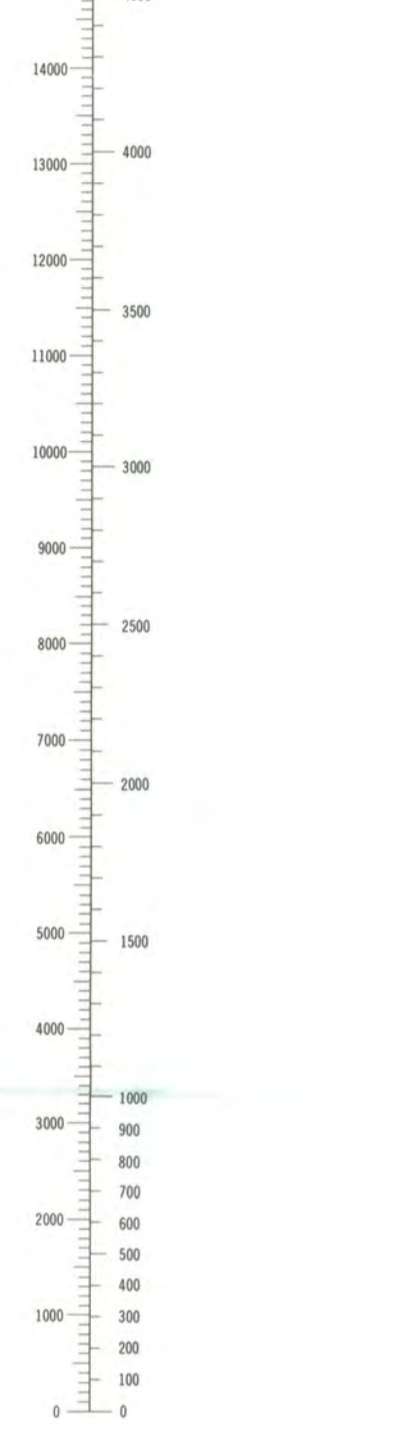
UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ALEXANDRIA QUADRANGLE
 VIRGINIA-DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-MARYLAND
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC-BATHYMETRIC)



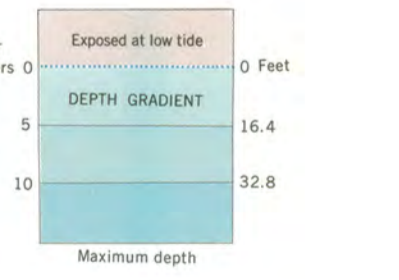
Engine Company 25
 18326 347 E
 4301046 N

CONVERSION SCALES



Feet	Meters
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3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
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7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters multiply by 3048
 To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

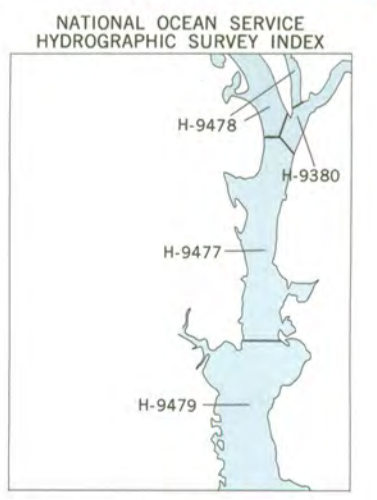


Exposed at low tide 0 Feet
 5 16.4
 10 32.8
 Maximum depth

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
 Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
 Interstate Route ——— U. S. Route ——— State Route ———

ALEXANDRIA, VA.—D. C.—MD.
 38077-G1-TB-024

1965
 PHOTOREVISED 1983
 BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
 DMA 5561 1 SE—SERIES V834



Survey Number	Survey Date	Survey Scale	Survey Line Spacing (feet)
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H-9477	1974	1:5,000	01-03
H-9478	1975	1:5,000	02-01
H-9479	1974	1:10,000	02-06

SCALE 1:24,000
 1 MILE
 1 KILOMETER
 7000 FEET
 7000 METERS

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 BATHYMETRIC CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 METER WITH SUPPLEMENTARY
 0.5 METER CONTOUR—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.9 METER

BASE MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 BATHYMETRIC SURVEY DATA COMPLIES WITH INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
 ORGANIZATION (IHO) SPECIAL PUBLICATION 44 ACCURACY STANDARDS
 (AND/OR STANDARDS USED AT THE DATE OF THE SURVEY)
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey and the National Ocean Service
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, NCPSS, and WSSC
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955. Field checked 1956. Revised 1965
 Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Service from tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for navigational purposes
 Mean low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid) line compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated aerial photographs. Apparent shoreline (outer edge of vegetation) shown by light solid line
 Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Virginia coordinate system, north zone, and Maryland coordinate system 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18 1927 North American Datum
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 9 meters south and 26 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
 Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies used in aerial photographs taken 1981 and other sources. This information not field checked
 Map edited 1983
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

