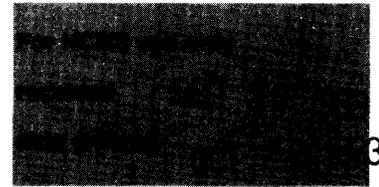


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 Truck House No. 2
and/or common Paca Street Firehouse (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 106 North Paca Street n/a not for publication
city, town Baltimore (ind city) n/a vicinity of congressional district Seventh
state Maryland code 24 county independent city code 510

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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Baltimore, William D. Schaefer, Mayor
street & number City Hall, Room 250, 100 North Holliday Street
city, town Baltimore n/a vicinity of state Maryland 21202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse
street & number North Calvert Street
city, town Baltimore state Maryland 21202

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no
date 1983 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local
depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle
city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The firehouse is a 1909 two-story brick structure with a highly detailed stone Renaissance Revival facade (east elevation) that consists of a recessed arched doorway with replacement doors; a balcony on the second story below a stretch of three windows; broad, flat, rusticated pilasters; and a modillioned cornice. The first floor interior which is one large space and the reveals of the recessed entranceway are covered with polychrome tiling laid in simple geometric patterns. The upper story of the interior is divided into two main sections. The principal space is a large room subdivided at the Paca Street end into offices. The remaining and smaller space is along the back consisting of utility rooms and bathrooms. The principal woodwork throughout is architrave molding.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Paca Street Firehouse is a two-story structure, one bay wide by several bays deep, which faces east, fronting on North Paca Street just north of its intersection with West Fayette Street in Baltimore City, Maryland. Constructed in 1909 as part of a citywide campaign to upgrade firefighting facilities, the building embodies the architectural characteristics which typify Baltimore firehouses of the period. While primarily of brick construction, the building features an elaborate Renaissance Revival facade of cut stone. The arched central entrance is flanked by broad, heavily rusticated stone pilasters. The door is a mid-20th century, vertical-lift replacement. Above the entrance, a group of three transomed windows surmounts a balustraded balcony supported on consoles. The windows are framed by foliated pilasters and a stylized geometric frieze. A heavy projecting modillioned cornice surmounts the facade.

The reveals of the recessed entrance are decorated with polychrome mosaic tiles in designs featuring Greek meanders and geometric motifs; this treatment is carried into the interior, with the walls of the single large first-floor space entirely covered by ceramic tile in panel-like geometric patterns employing white, green, brown, and maroon shades. This space also retains its elaborate pressed-metal ceiling and spiral stair to the second story. The floor is concrete.

The second story is partitioned to present a large open central space, with a utility area and bathrooms to the rear and offices in front. Walls are plastered, and decorative trim is limited to simple baseboards, chair rails, and architraves. As on the first floor, the ceiling is finished in pressed metal, and here has three large rectangular skylights. A hose tower rises at the rear of the building.

8. Significance

B-3695

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) fire protection
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1909-1910 **Builder/Architect** J. E. Laferty, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, B, C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The significance of the Paca Street Firehouse is drawn from the history and the architectural character of the building. The firehouse was built in 1909 as part of a city wide movement to upgrade significantly Baltimore's fire-protection system. Following the Great Fire of 1904, in which more than 140 acres of the downtown area was destroyed, Baltimore began an active program to expand and improve the fire department. By 1923, the department had almost doubled its number of companies and tripled the staff. The Paca Street Firehouse typifies this form of municipal architecture in being a small masonry structure with a heavy Renaissance Revival facade. In viewing the building in the context of the retail district, the structure is one of three early twentieth century firehouses standing and is the only one to retain its original features, particularly in the interior. Additional significance comes through association with August Emrich (1864-1954) who as chief engineer supervised the modernization of the Baltimore Fire Department. Emrich was stationed in the Paca Street Firehouse for most of his tenure as Deputy Chief and Chief Engineer.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The significance of 106 North Paca Street stems from three sources. First, as a fire house executed in a richly ornate but conservative interpretation of the construction of that period, Truck House No. 2 embodies the distinctive characteristics of a time and type building newly implemented for the fire safety and protective management of Baltimore. Prior to the early 20th century, the design of Baltimore's fire stations had followed the basic trends in American architecture. The buildings were also remarkably uniform in their design. The Baltimore City Fire Department was formed in 1859, and consisted of seven companies which had all been volunteer companies originally. The buildings for these companies all were built in the 1850's with Italianate styles, usually the Italian Villa style. Italian prototypes continued to inspire the fire station design into the 1880's, although the architecture became more varied and eclectic along with the rest of American architecture in the High Victorian era. The High Victorian Italianate style Engine House #13 (1876) and the Queen Anne style Engine House #18 (1892) exemplify this era. The combined influences on American architecture of the Ecole des Beaux Arts and the emergence of the American Renaissance equally influenced the design of Baltimore fire stations. In the late 1880's and through 1890's, the Second Renaissance Revival style was used almost exclusively such as at Engine Houses #19 (1892), and #20 (1895), #21 (1896). After the turn of the century, the designs were almost all in the Beaux Arts Classical style, with various degrees of allegiance to Renaissance or Classical prototypes. This era lasted until 1923, when fire house building virtually stopped until the 1940's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Baltimore East, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	1	8
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3	6	0	9	6	0
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4	3	5	0	0	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of the single city lot upon which the resource stands, measuring 33' by 150'.

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter Kurtze, from information provided by Gregory Johnson, Larry Hughes and Timothy Bishop

organization Maryland Historical Trust date September 1983

street & number 21 State Circle telephone 301-269-2438

city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21204

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] 9-21-83

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

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

[Signature] 10/28/83
Keoper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date

Attest: _____ date
Chief of Registration

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

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Whether on purpose or by accident, the actual organization of architectural features became uniform during the 1900-1923 era as well. The Beaux Arts buildings of Classical inspiration have facades with a large central arch, three centrally grouped windows above, paired pilasters at the facade corners, an entablature and balustrade above the pilasters, and various ornamentation. The Beaux Arts buildings of Renaissance inspiration are simpler, with rustication of the first story, no pilasters, less ornament, and round arched windows on the second floor.

Truck House No. 2 embodies all of the characteristics which distinguish Baltimore's fire station buildings of the early 20th century. All of Baltimore's fire stations built before the 1930's are rectangular boxes built two stories high, one bay wide, and several bays long. The exterior architectural design is elaborate and almost always restricted to the facade. The roof normally has ventilation cupolas for the bunk rooms beneath it, and there is always a rear tower for drying hoses. The interior plan consists of a first floor apparatus room for the horses, steam engines and hose wagons - later motorized trucks - and an upstairs containing offices, a bunk room, dressing rooms, showers, and a storage room. Interior detailing is elaborate on the first story, and includes intricate colored mosaics of glazed tile on the first floor and ornate, pressed metal ceilings.

Truck House No. 2 possesses all of these elements: the box form, the roof features, the elaborate facade, the floor plan, and the rich interior details.

In addition, the fire station is significant in its association with the period of the most dramatic expansion that has yet occurred within the Fire Department. This era took place after the Great Fire of 1904. In the 44 year period from 1860 to 1904, the department had expanded slowly from a total of only 7 engine and truck companies to a total of 39, an insufficient number. The 1904 fire caused little physical damage to the fire department, but afterwards the department's diminutive size and poor equipment were glaringly evident. As a result, from 1905 to 1923, there was extreme expansion and upgrading of the department: only the finest equipment was purchased, personnel was increased, and the number of companies (and engine houses) grew dramatically. In terms of buildings, the number of houses grew by 50% in the period from 1905 to 1910. Nineteen houses were constructed. Between 1905 and 1923, the number of companies nearly doubled. The equipment was modernized: immediately after the fire 10 LaFrance steamers - considered to be the "Cadillac" of fire apparatus - were purchased. In 1912, only a year after they became available in America, the department began purchasing Ahrens-Fox pumping engines - an even better piece of equipment. Further modernization occurred that year with the installation of three Allis-Chalmers "Corlis" high pressure pumping engines - the height of fire fighting technology.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Truck House No. 2 is associated with this period by virtue of its construction date as well as the quality of its architecture. The sophisticated design and the details with the interior mosaics and metal ceilings illustrate physically the drive for quality within the Department. Truck Company No. 2 was among the first stations in Baltimore to receive high-pressure service equipment, motorized aerial apparatus, and staff cars.

Finally, the Paca Street Firehouse draws significance from its association with August Emrich. Emrich entered the Baltimore Fire Department in 1884, and was assigned to the original No. 2 Truck Company. He remained with that company, stationed at 106 North Paca Street throughout his career. In 1909 the position of Deputy Chief Engineer was created and given to him. In 1910, the present Paca Street Firehouse opened as headquarters for No. 2 Truck Company. Emrich became Chief Engineer for the Department on November 9, 1911.

As Chief Engineer, Emrich developed and implemented many innovations in the operation of the Department. He introduced standardized equipment and instrumentation, and created a Marine Division of the department in 1912. He promoted professional standards for firefighters, including technical training and codes of conduct and discipline. Emrich served as Chief Engineer quartered at the Paca Street Firehouse, until his retirement in 1932.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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