

NOV 27 2015

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in the National Park Service Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Other names/site number: Hatfield Borough Municipal Building
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: Cherry Street at Diamond and Fretz Streets
City or town: Hatfield Borough State: PA County: Montgomery County
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

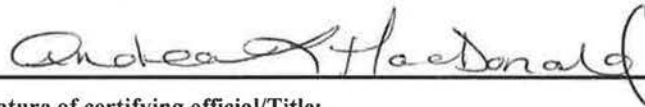
3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local Applicable National Register Criteria: x A B C D

	<u>11/12/2015</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

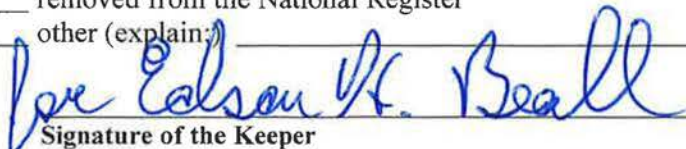
In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain):

	<u>1.12.16</u>
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

- Government / Public Works - Electrical Substation
- Government / Correctional Facility - Lock Up
- Government / Fire Station - Firehouse

Current Functions

- Vacant / Not in Use
- Recreation and Culture / Museum

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

No style

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: Roof – Synthetic Slate (plastic, rubber)
Walls - Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located on Cherry Street at the intersection with Fretz and Diamond Streets, the Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse is a small, one and a half story, brick building that measures roughly 20 feet by 20 feet. (See Figure 1, 3, 4, and 5) It was built in 1908. The building is located on a small lot in a small town setting with recreational, residential, commercial and industrial areas nearby. The lot is enclosed by an open vinyl fence. There is a sign stating “1908 Historic Hatfield Municipal Building” at the front of the property. (See photo 1.) There are no parking spaces on the property, but parking is available on the street or in an adjacent lot for a nearby park. The building had multiple concurrent uses: an electrical substation for the distribution of electricity to local homes, businesses and street lighting; the Borough’s lock up or jail; and it served as the first firehouse for the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company. Owned by the Borough of Hatfield and occasionally open for tours, the building is in excellent condition and retains its historic integrity. There is also a small 10 foot by 10 foot noncontributing well house on the property, behind the Substation, that was constructed c.1987.

Narrative Description

Exterior Description

The Hatfield Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse’s primary gable end façade faces onto Cherry Street, towards the northeast. While the building is strictly utilitarian in use, it does have modest but interesting architectural features. However, it is difficult to assign any architectural style to this vernacular building.

The gable roof is covered with slate-like composite shingles installed in 1998. (See photo 3.) Along the roof line on the gable ends are wood fascia boards. (See photo 12.) The cornice along the depth of the building features exposed rafter ends. (See photo 13.) In the upper part of the

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gable end there is a large circular opening that is filled in with wood and a rectangular white stone, likely marble. There are holes drilled through the wood and marble stone. This is where electrical wires for the substation use entered and exited the building. (See photos 1, 11, and 15.)

The walls of the building are constructed of brick in a running bond pattern. Along the southeast side there are two windows with segmental brick arches above. (See photo 4.) The shutters for the windows are typically kept closed. The windows are six-over-six double hung sashes. (See photo 16.) Along the northwest side of the building there is a shuttered six-over-six double hung sash window with a segmental brick arch. (See photo 9.) Additionally on the northwest side and also on the rear (southwest side) there are small windows with horizontal bars. These windows are one-over-one double hung with segmental brick arches above. (See photos 5, 6 and 10.) Their purpose is to allow limited light and ventilation into the jail cell section of the building.

Along the main façade (northeast side) there is a large double-leaf garage-sized door with a brick segmental arch above. The door has eight window lights in the upper section filled in with plywood, and an X pattern in the lower section of each leaf. (See photos 1, 2 and 7.) There is also a five-panel entrance door on the main façade. This door has a transom and a segmental brick arch above it. (See photos 1 and 8.)

On the exterior of the building, and immediately adjacent to it, are two large rectangular concrete slabs. One is along the rear of the building (southwest side) below the jail cell window. (See photo 4.) This slab is about 10 feet by 3 feet and only several inches high. There are two copper or brass rods inserted in the ground near the slab. It served as the location for lightning arrestors and to ground the substation. The other slab is along the northwest side of the building under the larger shuttered window. (See photo 5.) This concrete slab measures about 10 feet by 3 feet, but is about 1 foot high. This slab served as a location for several transformers that sat on the slab.

Well House Structure (noncontributing)

To the west of the building there is a c.1987 structure to house a well and pump equipment. It is constructed of brick, one story high, and measures about 10 feet by 10 feet. A narrow sidewalk leads to the well house structure. (See photos 22 and 23.)

Interior Description

The interior of the Hatfield Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse consists of three rooms. (See Figure 2, Floor Plan.) The electric distribution room measures approximately 10 feet by 13 feet and accessed by the small exterior front door. There is no access to the electric distribution room from inside the building. The room has original wood partition walls, stucco covered outer walls, wood ceiling and currently a particle board floor. (See photo 14.) Wiring leading to the distribution room entered the building through the round opening in the upper gable end of the main façade (See photos 15 and 21.) Formerly there was a switchboard in the electric distribution room which controlled the flow of electricity to the community for street lighting, residential, commercial, and industrial uses.

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The firehouse section of the building measures roughly 9 feet by 13 feet. It has original wood partition walls, stucco covered outer walls, and a newer poured concrete floor installed in 1998. The poured concrete floor replaced the previous poured concrete floor. (See photo 20.) The firehouse section has a high ceiling allowing space for storing the fire apparatus. The building has light frame roof construction. There is plywood roof underlayment installed in 1998 when the current composite roof shingles were put up. (See Photo 21.) The jail cell or lock up room measures about 6 feet by 7 feet. It has original wood partition walls, stucco covered exterior walls, wood ceiling and tongue and groove wood flooring. The entrance partition and entrance door to the lock up have horizontal wood slats and vertical iron bars. (See photo 17.) In the jail cell there is a built in wooden bench. (See photos 18 and 19.)

Historic Integrity

Overall, the building retains its historic integrity. There has been some intrusion upon the setting of the building with the construction of the c.1987 well house structure, but the small brick structure does not impose upon the historic building, and its appearance was intended to not detract from the historic setting. The materials on the interior of the building have been altered somewhat by the use of particle board flooring in the electric transmission section. The particle board was installed in 1998 to replace a severely deteriorated tongue and groove wood floor. The 1998 poured cement floor in the firehouse section replaced, in-kind, the previous poured concrete floor. Those changes are not substantial. The removal of the wiring, switchboard, and related substation equipment represents the most important change. Despite the removal, evidence remains indicating where the equipment was located (including the circular opening in the gable end) to help convey the historic use of the building. The integrity of the exterior of the building is intact. The only material replaced on the exterior of the building were original slate shingles, replaced by slate-like composite roof shingles in 1998. There have been no major alterations or additions to the building since its construction in 1908. Some electrical equipment on the exterior of the building, specifically the transformers and lightning arrestors, was removed. However, the building retains important attributes of setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association. It conveys its past use as an electrical substation building, lock up, and firehouse.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is 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

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

Politics / Government

Period of Significance

c.1908-c.1931

Significant Dates

NA

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Significant Person

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Benner, Edwin (builder)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for government and politics. The building has an important association with the development of municipal electric service in small to medium municipalities in suburban Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, specifically in central and upper Bucks and Montgomery Counties. In the early 20th century communities in the region were scrambling to electrify. The borough council of Hatfield recognized the need to modernize and compete with surrounding communities to retain and attract residents, businesses and industries. In 1908, Hatfield Borough council acted to ensure that electricity was available for street lighting, providing service to homes and small businesses, and to run machinery in factories and mills. The Hatfield Borough Substation was built c.1908 and continued to distribute electricity to the community until c.1931 when a modern electric generating plant was built. The period of significance for the building is c.1908 to c.1931. Concurrent to the use of the building as an electric substation it was also used as the lock up, or jail, and also as the community's first firehouse.

Narrative Statement of Significance

History of the Property

The Borough of Hatfield was incorporated in 1898. The area was densely populated at two villages in Hatfield Township known as Upper Hatfield and Lower Hatfield. Upper and Lower Hatfield were merged into the Borough of Hatfield. Original meeting minute books, in the possession of the borough, document the attempt of the newly formed government to provide services to its citizens. Coordinating and establishing water supply, sewage and storm water management, streets and sidewalks, fire protection and law enforcement, transit and electric supply were all of high importance to the borough council at the time. In 1908, the borough began the process of trying to switch the street lighting from oil fixtures to electricity. For the growing Borough of Hatfield, constructing a building to generate its own electricity was too expensive.

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According to the meeting minutes and other sources, purchasing electricity from several nearby electric companies with generating stations was considered. In addition to getting electric power to the borough there also was a need for poles, wiring and light fixtures within the borough. Since the electricity would come from a distance to the borough, a substation with electric transformers was needed to reduce the voltage and distribute the power to the streets and buildings in Hatfield. According to the borough meeting minutes, in the fall of 1908, Hatfield Borough council voted to hire Samuel S. Alderfer, an electrician from nearby Souderton, to install poles and wiring from the borough line to the soon to be built electric substation on Cherry Street. Council also contracted with Philadelphia Electric Construction Company to install poles and wiring along the streets of the borough to transmit electricity from the substation to street lights and buildings within the borough. (Note that Philadelphia Electric Construction Company was not a predecessor or subsidiary company of Philadelphia Electric Company and was not in any way affiliated with or a competitor to Philadelphia Electric Company.)

On October 8, 1908, bids were opened by borough council for construction of the substation building. The lowest bid belonged to a local builder named W. Ross Beisel; his bid to construct the substation was \$400.00. However, Mr. Beisel refused to sign the contract to build the substation for \$400.00 stating that he had made an error in his cost estimate. Instead Beisel determined he could build it for \$523.00. Borough council decided to award the contract to Edwin Benner, who was a respected Hatfield builder and also council President at the time. The substation was built by Edwin Benner for a cost of \$523.00. Samuel Alderfer was paid \$850.00 and Philadelphia Electric Construction Company was paid \$1,771.50 for poles and wiring. Land on Cherry Street for the substation totaling about 8,500 square feet (170 feet wide by 50 feet deep) was purchased from Chester Knipe for the reported price of one dollar. The total cost to the borough for building the substation and the electric transmission system was approximately \$3,144.50. Money for the project came presumably from general tax funds as no mention is made in the minutes of a bond issue to fund the project. The electricity for the substation was supplied by the West Telford Electric Light and Power Company. At that time, most electric generating plants were owned by local governments. The West Telford plant was owned and operated by West Telford Borough. Their generating plant was within a reasonable distance, estimated to be about 3.5 miles from Hatfield.

West Telford and Hatfield Borough officials signed a ten year agreement for supplying electricity. West Telford Electric Light and Power Company installed transmission lines from their plant to the Hatfield Borough boundary where it connected with the electric lines built by Samuel Alderfer to the substation. Samuel Alderfer also installed lightning arresters to protect the system and a switch board in the building to control the flow of current from the substation to the wiring. On December 1, 1908, the electric street lights were lit for the first time in Hatfield Borough. The lights were initially lit from dusk to 10:30 pm and turned on at 5:30 am until dawn. The borough hired an employee to operate the switch. Eventually the system was connected to residences and businesses and operated around the clock. The substation required routine maintenance and emergency service by an electrician as needed. No employees were

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needed to regularly operate the facility. The first building in Hatfield to be serviced with electricity was I.C. Detweiler's general store on Market Street, followed the next day by Jonas Moyer's Iron Fence Company on Cherry Street. By December 10, 1908, just about all businesses and many, but not all, private houses in Hatfield were electrified.

West Telford Electric Light and Power charged Hatfield Borough six cents per kilowatt hour and Hatfield Borough charged its residents twelve cents per kilowatt hour for the electricity. In the meeting minutes it was reported on November 1, 1909, that the previous month's revenue for electricity was \$97.40. The cost of the electricity was \$56.76. Due to the profitability of the system three additional street lights were installed in November of 1909. The system continued to make a profit, was expanded to include more streetlights and more buildings were supplied with electricity. Eventually the substation and related infrastructure more than paid for itself.

The West Telford Electric Light and Power Company was taken over by the Excelsior Electric Light and Power Company c.1913. Excelsior was a growing privately owned electric company headquartered in Philadelphia. To purchase the West Telford plant and other local government owned generating plants Excelsior had to first incorporate the company, name a board of directors, issue stock, and then acquire the company by purchasing the shares of stock. Records of these transactions are in the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company archives at the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware. In addition to Hatfield, Excelsior supplied electricity to Souderton, Telford, West Telford, Reliance, Silverdale, and Sellersville. Excelsior continued to honor the ten year agreement with Hatfield Borough to supply electricity to the Hatfield substation. In 1917, when the contract with Excelsior was about to expire Hatfield Borough began to explore other sources to power the substation. According to the records at the Hagley Museum and Library, Hatfield Borough gave notice to Excelsior that they would no longer purchase electricity from the plant at West Telford. Instead nearby Lansdale Borough's electric plant was considered as an alternative. At the time the nearby Borough of Chalfont also expressed an interest in having Lansdale Borough supply it with electricity. However, a Lansdale taxpayer named B. Frank Day filed suit against the borough to stop Lansdale from supplying Hatfield and Chalfont with electric power. He claimed it would be too expensive to supply the two boroughs and taxes in Lansdale would have to increase. An article clipped from the local Lansdale or Chalfont newspaper and in the archive at the Hagley Museum and Library indicates that B. Frank Day won his suit. A judge issued an injunction to stop Lansdale from supplying electricity to Chalfont and Hatfield. Other articles clipped from local papers in the archive speculate that B. Frank Day was an agent acting on behalf of either Excelsior, Pennsylvania Power and Light, or Philadelphia Electric Company, all of which were seeking to purchase Lansdale's generating plant. Due to the court decision Hatfield Borough had no choice except to enter into a year to year agreement with Excelsior Power Company to continue buy electricity from its West Telford generating plant.

Excelsior was taken over by Pennsylvania Power and Light Company (PP&L) in 1923. PP&L was a large electric utility company that is now PPL Corporation, headquartered in Allentown, and is one of Pennsylvania's largest electric companies. When PP&L took over Excelsior

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electricity for the substation was purchased from PP&L by Hatfield Borough. By 1930 the contract between PP&L and Hatfield Borough was due to expire and there was disagreement among the parties about price. Hatfield Borough council again began to discuss its options and alternatives for electric supply. Borough council ordered that a test be conducted to determine the peak load of the 1908 substation building on Cherry Street in the summer of 1930. The substation apparently failed the test, but the test provided key information about the demand for electricity in the borough. Ultimately, after considerable discussion that is recorded in the borough's meeting minutes, it was decided that Hatfield Borough would construct its own electric generating building. On August 7, 1930, Hatfield Borough council voted to construct a building to generate electricity at a cost of \$38,000 and to rent three 75 kilowatt diesel engines for electric generation from Fairbanks Morse Company. To fund the project a bond was issued to raise the money and Hatfield Borough started its own electric generation. The new electric generating station was completed in 1931.

The old substation was made obsolete by the construction of the new power plant and it was no longer used for electric distribution. The Hatfield Substation remained in the ownership of the borough and the building was used for storage. In 1950 it was sold by the borough to the nearby Hanson Textile Company which also used the building for storage. In 1988, the substation, with a recently constructed well building on the property, was sold from Hanson Textile Company back to the Borough of Hatfield. The borough used the building again for storage until 1998 when the community was celebrating the 100th anniversary of its incorporation. In recognition of the role the building played in the development of Hatfield, the borough began the process of restoring the substation and began to open it for tours on special occasions.

The substation building had also been used, beginning in 1908, as the lock up or jail by the borough. The borough's law enforcement in 1908 would have been administered by a constable. The archives in Montgomery County were checked for constable records, or any crime reports for the period c.1908 to c.1930, but none were found. The Hatfield Borough meeting minutes regarding the construction of the substation do not make any reference to including a jail cell in the electric substation. However, based on the design and construction of the building, it was apparently intended to include a jail cell from the beginning. The small barred windows in the building for the jail cell do not appear to have been an afterthought, since there is no appearance that they were cut into the building after it was constructed. Evidenced of this are the brick arches over the windows. Newspapers of the time do not included details such as where criminals were held after arrest. In general Hatfield Borough was not plagued by major crimes and the jail cell was likely used for perpetrators of minor crimes and as a holding cell for more serious criminals, before being transferred to Montgomery County Prison in Norristown. While being relatively crime free, in December of 1907 a murder was committed in Hatfield Borough. A business owner was robbed and killed while closing his shop in the evening. This event may have prompted the decision to include a jail cell in the substation.

Sanborn fire insurance maps from the time the building was in use were checked and these confirm that it was used as a jail. The 1914 Sanborn map of Hatfield shows the building on

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Cherry Street with the label “Lock Up.” (See Figure 7.) Similarly the 1922 Sanborn map identified the building as a “Jail”. (See Figure 8.) The Sanborn Maps also reveal the other use of the substation indicating that it was also serving as the fire department. On the 1914 Sanborn map of Hatfield the building is listed as having a chemical engine, 2-30 gallon tanks, 2-3 gallon chemical extinguishers, 10 buckets, and 22 active members. The 1922 map shows virtually the same equipment and same number of personnel at the substation location. The shed on Jonas Moyer’s Fence Company which stored the fire company’s newer equipment also is marked as the fire department on the 1922 Sanborn map (See Figures 7 and 8.) The equipment and personnel at the shed is listed as one chief, one assistant, 30 active members, one Packard twin six engine, 500 gallon Hale pumper, one Cole six cylinder chassis with two 35 gallon chemical tanks, 150 feet chemical hose, one 20 foot extension ladder, and 1000 feet of 2 ½ inch hose.

The fire department use for the building also appears to have been part of the construction plans. In 1910 Hatfield Borough allowed the newly formed volunteer fire company to use the substation on Cherry Street for its firehouse. Very few alterations were needed to convert the part of the substation building so that the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company could house their newly acquired horse drawn chemical fire-fighting apparatus. The substation was constructed with a large entry door to and had enough additional space to store other equipment used by the firefighters. In 1911 volunteers from the fire company filled in a ditch between the street and the large door in the gable end of the substation and they poured a concrete floor to hold the weight of the chemical apparatus. In addition, there was also a temporary coal stove installed, that was replaced by a more permanent gas stove, to keep the chemicals in the fire apparatus from freezing in the winter. As the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company continued to expand they acquired more fire-fighting equipment. This included their first motorized fire truck. They used a shed on Jonas Moyer’s Iron Fence Company property, two doors down on Cherry Street from the substation to store the newer equipment. (See Figure 8.) Eventually in 1925, the fire company had a firehouse built on East Broad Street and all equipment was moved to the new building. The substation on Cherry Street and the shed on the Moyer property were no longer used by the fire company after the new firehouse was constructed in 1925.

The primary use of the Hatfield Substation was as an electrical substation building to distribute power for the borough’s electric system. Its construction occurred in a context of national fervor in the late 19th and early 20th century sometimes referred to as the “Electric Age” when communities large and small sought electricity in order to modernize. Hatfield Borough was incorporated in 1898 in the midst of the Electric Age. Borough Council knew the value of electricity for lighting and operating machinery. They worked to overcome the expense and logistics of getting electricity to the community. In 1908 Borough council directed construction of the needed infrastructure, including the substation and transmission lines, thus providing electricity to the growing community.

Some evidence of the impact of the substation and the role it played in the development of Hatfield Borough is the population increase that occurred during its operation. According to an account written in a history of Hatfield Township by Edward Mathews and posted on the

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borough's web site, the area that became Hatfield Borough had a population "above 300" c.1897. There were about 75 houses and many stores, mills, churches and a school. This information should be considered estimates only as an official government census count for the borough was not taken until 1900. In 1900 just after the villages of upper and lower Hatfield were joined as an incorporated borough, it had an official Federal Census population of 528. By 1910, after the substation was built the population increased to 705, an increase of 33% in 10 years. The population of the borough increased to 830 people by 1920 and by 1930 the population increased to 1,149, an increase of 118% from 1900 to 1930. Other factors in the growth of Hatfield have to also be considered. These include availability of other utilities and infrastructure, including water supply, sewage disposal, storm water management, streets and sidewalks; as well as transportation, specifically railroad and trolley lines. These amenities also contributed to Hatfield Borough's attractiveness and growth. Unfortunately, there are no official Federal Census counts for numbers of businesses or industries available for the same 1900 to 1930 time period.

For comparison purposes the official Federal Census population change for several surrounding communities with electric generating plants was also analyzed. The nearby community of West Telford was incorporated c.1896. The West Telford Electric Light and Power Company was owned initially by the borough and supplied electricity to West Telford starting c.1900 and to Hatfield in 1908. In 1900, West Telford had a Census population of 534 (Hatfield Borough's 1900 population was 528), by 1910 the population in West Telford increased to 664, an increase of 24%. By 1920 the population increased to 921 and by 1930 it reached 1,252 people, resulting in a total increase from 1900 to 1930 in West Telford of 134%. The percentage increase in Hatfield for the same period was somewhat lower at 118%. The Census population change for several other nearby communities were also researched and the comparative analysis of these are in Figure 20. Industrial and commercial development also likely increased in Hatfield Borough and in surrounding communities as a result of electrification, unfortunately official counts of the number of industrial and commercial establishments is not available. It is also not possible to determine the impact on the growth of the community had Hatfield decided to build an electric generating building, if and when, it had the funds for the project.

The ancillary uses of the Hatfield Substation as a lock up or jail, and as the place where the first fire apparatus was stored, further solidifies the significance of the building as part of the necessary infrastructure for the growth and development of the community. It was the first municipal building constructed for the Borough of Hatfield. The borough did not have a meeting hall. At first Hatfield Borough council met at a hall in Chester Knipe's Hotel. When the new fire house was built in 1925 Borough Council met in the board room in the new firehouse. It was not until relatively recently that Hatfield Borough Council had built its own space for meetings.

Historic Context and Comparable Properties

Early efforts to electrify communities and towns in the United States were started in the 1880s by Thomas Edison, who was working on electrification of large cities. Parts of Manhattan in New York City and sections of center city Philadelphia were electrified by the 1880s using systems

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constructed under the supervision of Edison. Edison's direct current (DC) electric system was challenged by George Westinghouse and Nikola Tesla who developed the alternating current or AC system. Alternating current was ultimately found superior to Edison's direct current. The deciding factor was the use of AC current for lighting the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The 1893 World Exposition also showed off a variety of electrified machinery for use in factory production and for household convenience. The construction of the mammoth hydroelectric plant at Niagara Falls by Westinghouse in 1895 was the first large scale electric plant. It supplied the city of Buffalo, New York, with electric power. Many other cities and towns in the suburbs of large cities soon began to be electrified.

The Hatfield Substation and other early electric buildings constructed in central and upper Montgomery and Bucks Counties were part of the trend in the very late 1890s to begin to modernize and provide electricity. These systems were initially owned and operated by local governments. In fact, early in the Electric Era the potential for monopolization of the electric industry resulted in states, including Pennsylvania, restricting electric generation to incorporated communities. Unincorporated villages could only be electrified if the township the village was in chose to generate electricity. In the area around Hatfield, townships were rural in character in the early 20th century and villages in them did not offer significant numbers of customers to warrant construction of an electric plant. The municipal-only electric plant restrictions began to be lifted as time progressed and private companies were eventually allowed to own electric generation stations. Villages and townships still however were not electrified until such time as it became economically feasible for electric companies to provide service.

In early municipal owned generating plants electricity was produced by rapidly rotating magnetized turbines around coils of exposed copper wire on a metal arm inside the turbine. This produced electrons that were absorbed by the wires and produced alternating electric current.

The rotation of the turbine was achieved by diesel powered engines or by heating water in a boiler and creating steam that rotated the generator. Coal was often used for creating steam in larger generating plants. For large scale electric generation such as the above mentioned Niagara Falls project the generators were rotated using moving water. The early era of electrification was followed by a period of growth and consolidation. Small electric plants had to be replaced by larger ones to meet increasing demand as population increased. Many early small electric buildings were demolished and replaced by larger ones. As consolidation and monopolization of the electric industry became less and less regulated, government-owned electric companies were transformed into "paper" corporations by large electric companies and then absorbed by the large company. Excelsior Electric Light and Power Company, Pennsylvania Power and Light Company and Philadelphia Electric Company were trying to monopolize their territories around suburban Philadelphia in the early to mid- 20th century. After a municipal electric plant was taken over by a private electric company, it may have operated for a short time, but soon it was replaced by the large electric plants operated by the private company that transmitted power to the area. The municipal owned electric plants were often left abandoned and demolished later in the 20th century as part of urban redevelopment projects, for parking, or for open space.

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In the Hatfield Substation there were no turbines or generators. Rather transformers sat on the concrete slab on the northwest side of the building that reduced the voltage in the current from the electric line from West Telford. The reduction was necessary because at the time a typical electrical system in a home or business was around 110 volts. Wires ran from the transformers into the building, and were connected to the switching system. There were multiple switches that turned power on and off to various parts of the borough and to larger industrial users. Some substations had transformers and equipment to boost power, such as the substations for the Lehigh Valley Transit Company trolley line that ran through the area. One of these at Sellersville, now demolished, was photographed on the interior and exterior. (See Figures 12.) One of these substations for the trolley line is still extant (See Figure 14.)

To find properties comparable to the Hatfield Substation local histories of surrounding communities in Bucks and Montgomery County were consulted to review how electricity developed. In addition, Sanborn Insurance Maps were used to locate early electric buildings and when found, the locations were field checked. If extant a photo was taken of the building. Historic photos were also used for verification of extant buildings and to illustrate comparable characteristics of early electric buildings that are no longer extant.

In Souderton, Montgomery County, the original borough hall located on Main Street also housed the electric generating plant and the firehouse. (See Figure 10.) Electric generators were in the basement of the building, the first floor was the firehouse and council meeting rooms were on the second floor. Constructed c.1899, the electric plant in the building was operated as the Montgomery Electric Company. The electric company was taken over by Excelsior Light and Power Company in 1909. While larger than the Hatfield Substation it is an early multi-use municipal building that included electricity generation as one of its uses. It is not documented as having a lock up or jail in it. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building in the Souderton Historic District. It retains historic integrity, although its electrical equipment has been removed, the fire house doors are now windows, and its interior altered to accommodate a commercial use.

Figure 11 is a current photograph of the Sellersville Electric Light and Power Company Building, located near Old State Road and Clymer Avenue. It was built c.1900 and was owned and operated by Sellersville Borough. The building is extant, although altered, but like the Hatfield Substation, represents one of the early Electric Age buildings in the region. It had no other use, except for generating electricity. Near the location of this building is where Excelsior Light and Power Company made an agreement in 1913 with the Lehigh Valley Transit Company to add onto its Sellersville Substation and install their own electric generating equipment (See Figures 12 and 13). The Sellersville substation of the Lehigh Valley Transit Company is no longer extant.

There is a substation associated with the Lehigh Valley Transit Company interurban trolley that is extant. (See Figure 14) It was built c.1912 and is located at the intersection of Dekalb Pike

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

Montgomery County, PA
County and State

(State Route 202) and Township Line Road in East Norriton Township, Montgomery County. This building is somewhat comparable in terms of size and architectural design to the Hatfield Substation. It is larger measuring about 15 feet by 30 feet, constructed of brick with three large arched windows along the depth of the building. This building boosted electric voltage power along the trolley line and contained transformers and other electrical equipment. The trolley substation has not been evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Many of these trolley substations were present along the Lehigh Transit Company trolley lines but very few are extant today.

North Wales Borough, Montgomery County, constructed c.1900 a small complex of municipal buildings near 3rd Street and Montgomery Avenue that included a pumping station or waterworks and an electric generating plant (See Figure 15). The buildings also stored fire apparatus and one of the buildings had a lock up in it. The electric generating plant was taken over by Philadelphia Suburban Electric and Gas Company c.1920. Philadelphia Suburban Electric and Gas Company was later taken over by Philadelphia Electric Company.

In Lansdale Borough, Montgomery County, the early efforts to electrify started out as a private venture by Godshall's Grist Mill located near Main Street and Wood Street. In the 1890s the company purchased and began to generate electricity for use in the mill and sold electricity to several nearby homes. In a somewhat controversial decision Lansdale Borough Council bought the generating plant and mill using tax dollars and later spent money on constructing a more modern plant located at 3rd Street and Richardson Avenue c.1900. (See Figure 16, upper photo). The local newspaper published an opinion piece that supported the borough council use of tax dollars stating that Lansdale needed to modernize in the Electric Age. Lansdale's electric plant proved very profitable and in fact it was viewed as a major competitor to the large electric companies. The c.1900 plant is not documented as having a lock up in it, nor any other use. It does have in the gable end a circular feature like the one in the gable end of the Hatfield Substation where wires entered and exited the building. Both Pennsylvania Power and Light Company and Philadelphia Electric Company sought to thwart efforts by Lansdale to expand into adjacent areas, including Hatfield Borough and Hatfield Township. The early electric plant was demolished c.1920 and replaced by a much larger plant. (See Figure 16, lower photo.) This plant operated into the 1980s and was demolished in 1985. Lansdale has continued to resist being part of any large electric company territory and still has its own electric company which buys electricity wholesale and distributes it to customers.

The Borough of Perkasie in Bucks County built its first electric plant on 7th Street between Arch and Race Streets c.1899. It is documented as having a lock up built onto it as an addition, but the firehouse was a separate building constructed nearby. This early electric building was demolished c.1938 and replaced with a more modern plant at the same location. (See Figure 17.) The c.1938 building is extant and is used as offices for the borough electric services department. Like Lansdale, Perkasie has also resisted take over by large electric companies.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

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According to Sanborn Insurance Maps, Quakertown Borough in Bucks County had its first electric plant built c.1904 at Erie Avenue and 4th Street. The c.1904 building is not documented as having a firehouse or jail. This older building was replaced c.1922 by a larger more modern building. (See Figure 18) The c.1922 building was built nearby at Erie Avenue and 3rd Street and adjacent to the railroad tracks. Like Lansdale, Quakertown's electric plant was very profitable and was a threat to large power companies like PP&L. Both the c.1904 and c.1922 electric plants in Quakertown were demolished.

In 1931 Hatfield Borough built its own modern electric plant (See Figure 19) replacing the substation as the primary provider of electricity. The 1931 electric plant has been demolished but the 1908 substation remains.

The search for comparable properties did not reveal any other municipal owned electric substations. A few early electric generating buildings were found including Souderton and Sellersville electric generating plants. The West Telford Power and Light Company building which supplied the Hatfield Substation unfortunately has not been located and is assumed to have been demolished. It is not known how the West Telford plant generated electricity and unfortunately the local history for all of the comparable properties do not mention the specific science and engineering for generating electricity in these plants. Many of the later and larger electric generating plants in the region were located adjacent to railroad tracks and therefore it is assumed that they were coal fired steam generating stations. The Hatfield Substation is the only existing substation in the region and is one of a few remaining early electric buildings in the area that is extant, retains historic integrity, and represents the efforts of local government officials to modernize and compete in the Electric Age of the late 1890s to early 1910s.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

Montgomery County, PA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

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Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

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Previous documentation on file (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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property .1 acres (3930 square feet)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 40.281954 Longitude: -75.298562

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed National Register boundary for the Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse is the current Montgomery County PA tax map parcel (09001 142). (See Figure 1 and Figure 4.)

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

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Boundary Justification

The tax parcel contains the Hatfield Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse building. No other buildings or structures historically associated with the Substation have been excluded from the boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: David Kimmerly, President
organization: Mid-Atlantic Historic Preservation Services LLC
street & number: 1137 Park Ave.
city or town: Lansdale state: PA zip code: 19446
e-mail dkimmerly@midatlantichps.com
telephone: 215-740-1650
date: 12/15/2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
City or Vicinity: Hatfield Borough County: Montgomery County State: PA
Photographer: David Kimmerly
Date Photographed: June, July and August 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 Environmental view showing northeast side, main façade, camera direction southwest.
- 2 Lateral view of main façade (northeast side) and southeast side, camera direction west.
- 3 Lateral view showing main façade (northeast side) and northwest side, camera direction south.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
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- 4 View of rear (southwest side) and southeast side camera direction north.
- 5 Lateral view of rear (southwest side) and northwest side, camera direction west.
- 6 View of rear (southwest side) camera direction northeast.
- 7 View of large door details of main façade (northeast side), camera direction southwest.
- 8 Small door details on main façade (northeast side), camera direction southwest.
- 9 Window and shutter details on northwest side, camera direction east.
- 10 Window with bars on northwest side, camera direction east.
- 11 Detail view of round opening in upper gable of main façade (northeast side), camera direction southwest.
- 12 Soffit and fascia details on south corner, camera direction north.
- 13 Cornice detail along southeast side, camera direction west.
- 14 Interior view of electric transmission room, camera direction southwest.
- 15 Interior view showing round opening in upper gable, camera direction north.
- 16 View of interior showing window details, camera direction south.
- 17 View of jail cell or lock up, camera direction northwest.
- 18 Interior detail view of jail cell or lock up, camera direction northwest.
- 19 Interior detail view of jail cell or lock up, camera direction east.
- 20 Interior view of firehouse section, camera direction southwest.
- 21 Interior view of firehouse section, camera direction north.
- 22 Environmental view of well building, camera direction south.
- 23 Well building, camera direction northwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act 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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

Montgomery County, PA
County and State

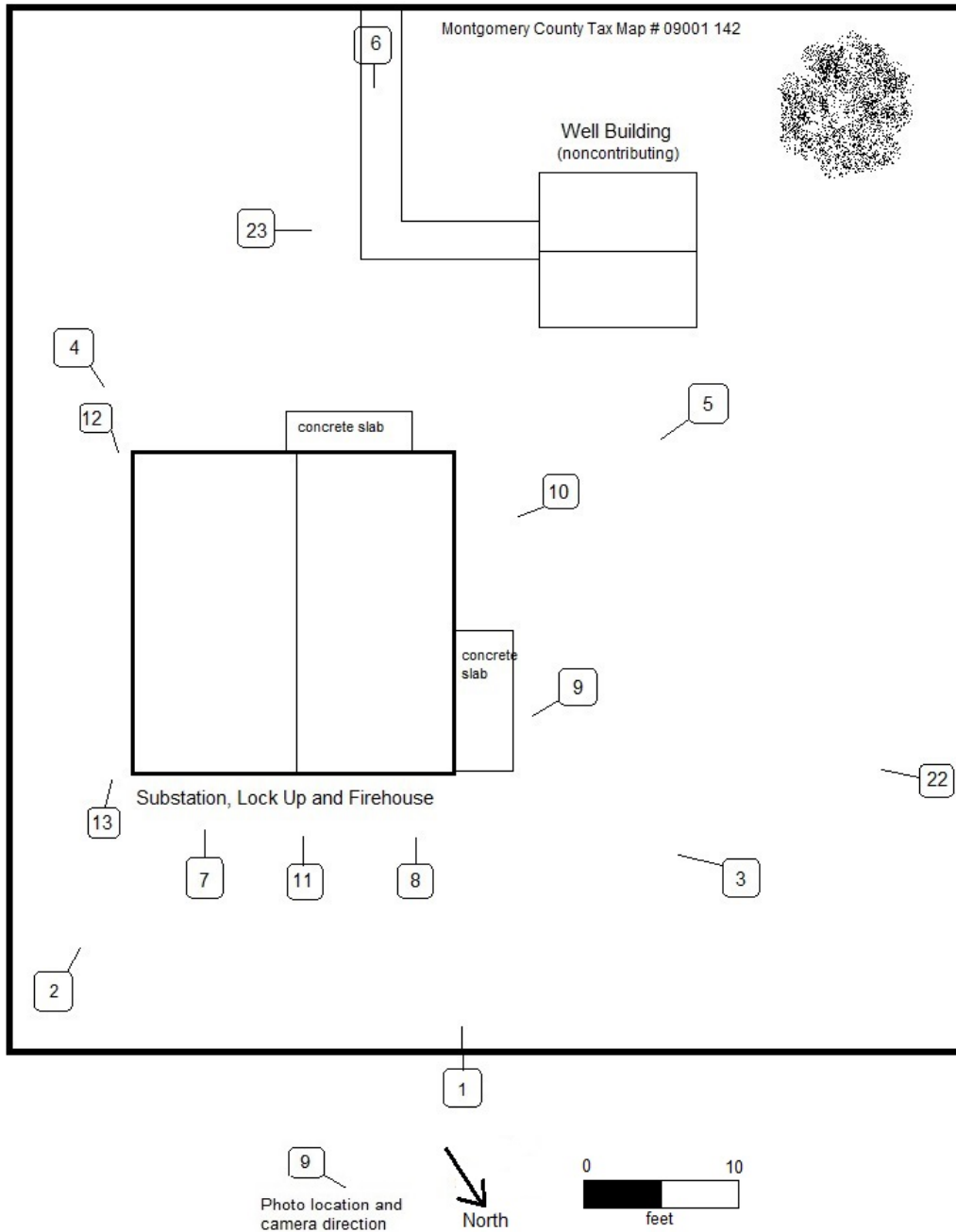
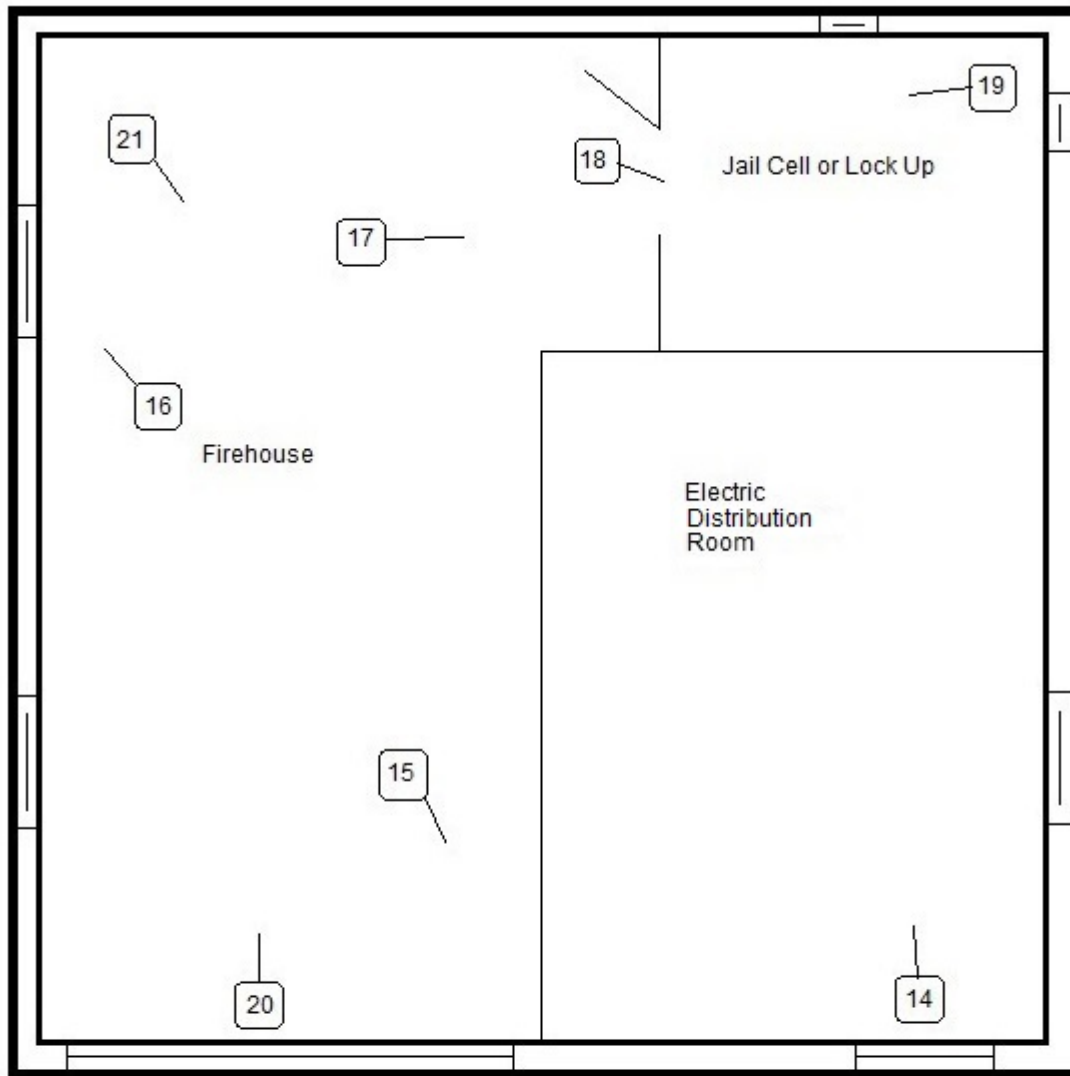


Figure 1, Site Plan

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

Montgomery County, PA
County and State



9
Photo location and
camera direction



Figure 2, Floor Plan

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

Montgomery County, PA
County and State

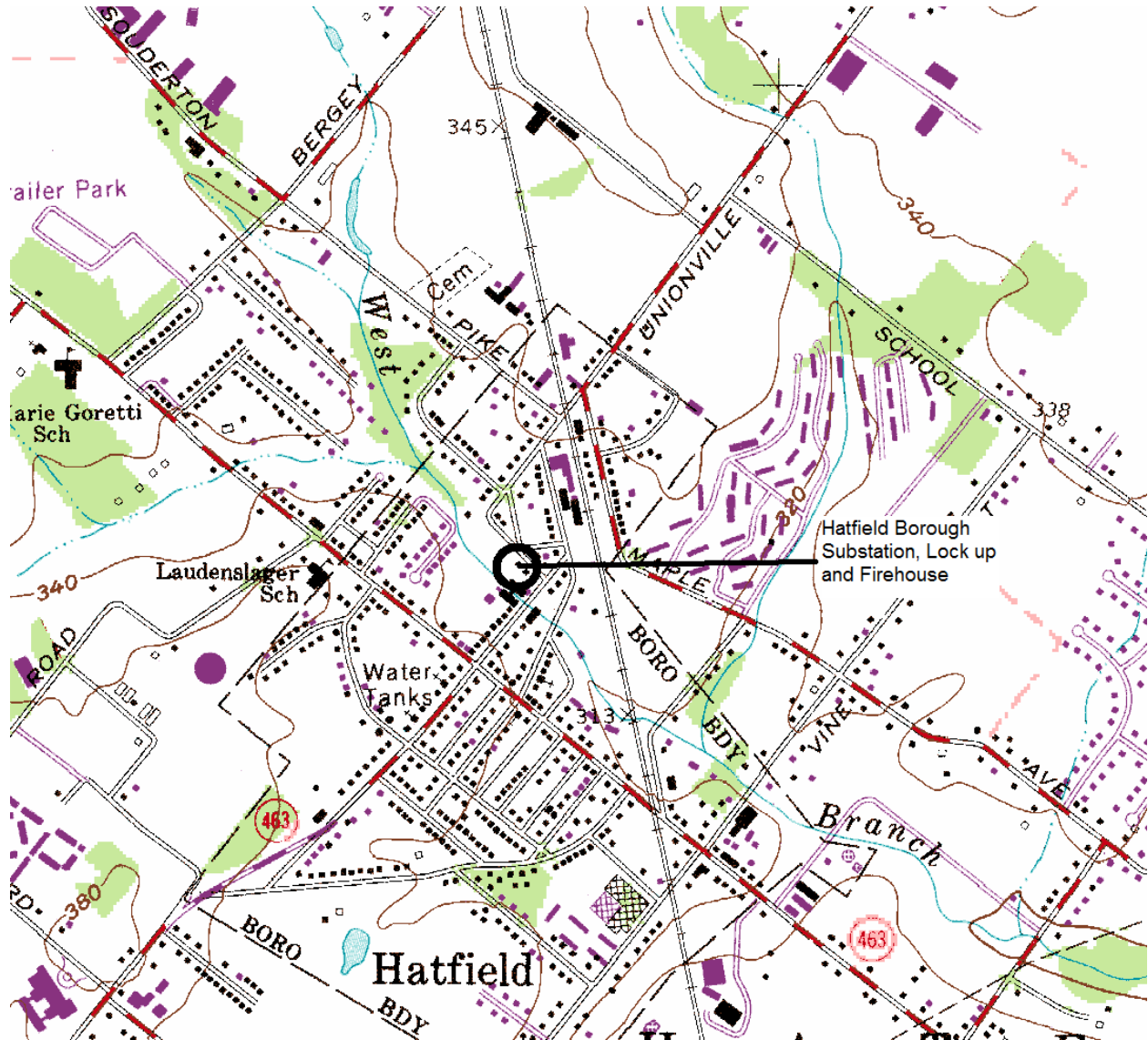


Figure 3, USGS map

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

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Figure 5, Bing Maps Aerial Photograph, 2014

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

Montgomery County, PA
County and State

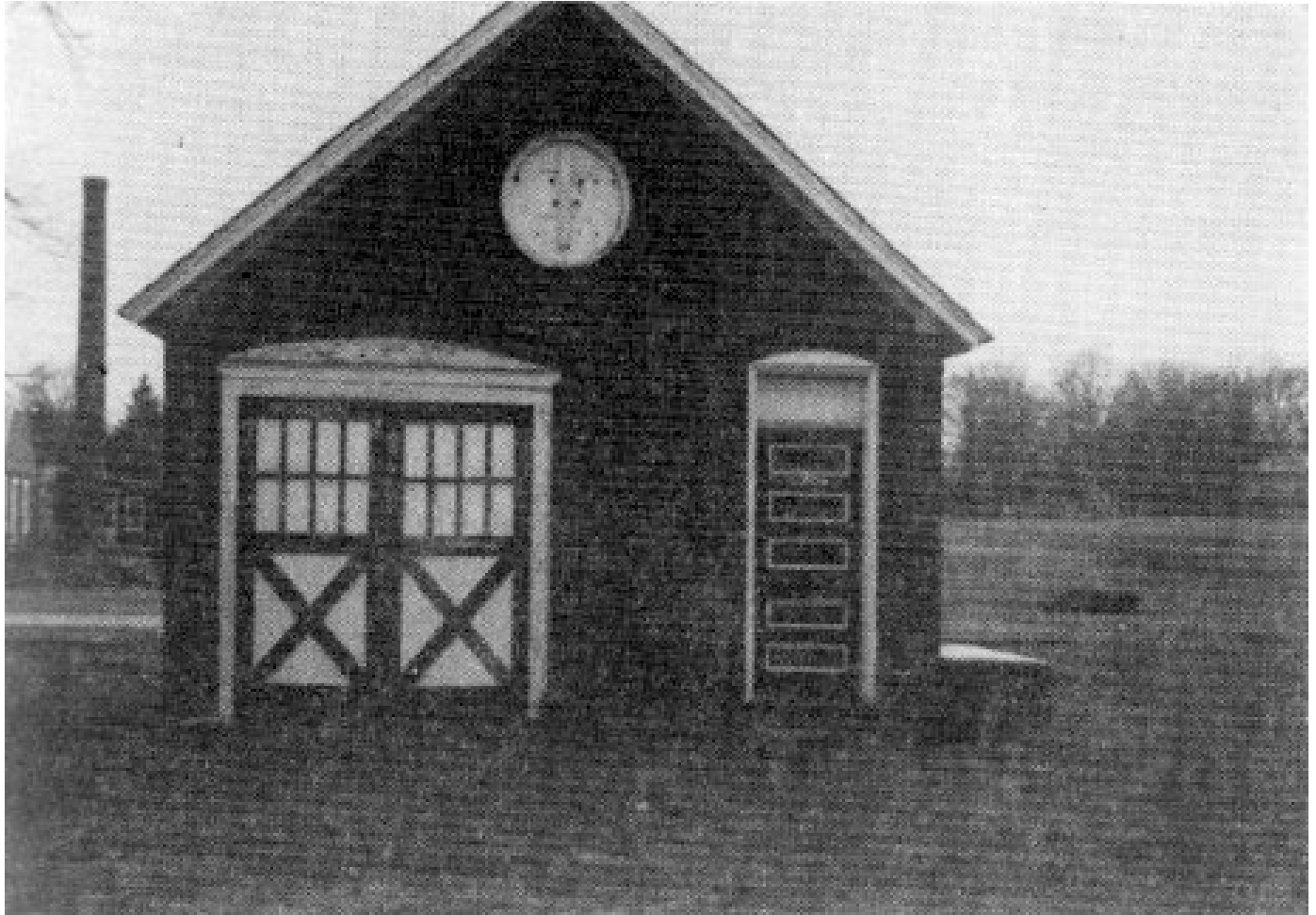


Figure 6, Historic Photo taken c.1932

Source: Hatfield Museum and Historical Society and *A History of the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, 1910 to 1985*

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

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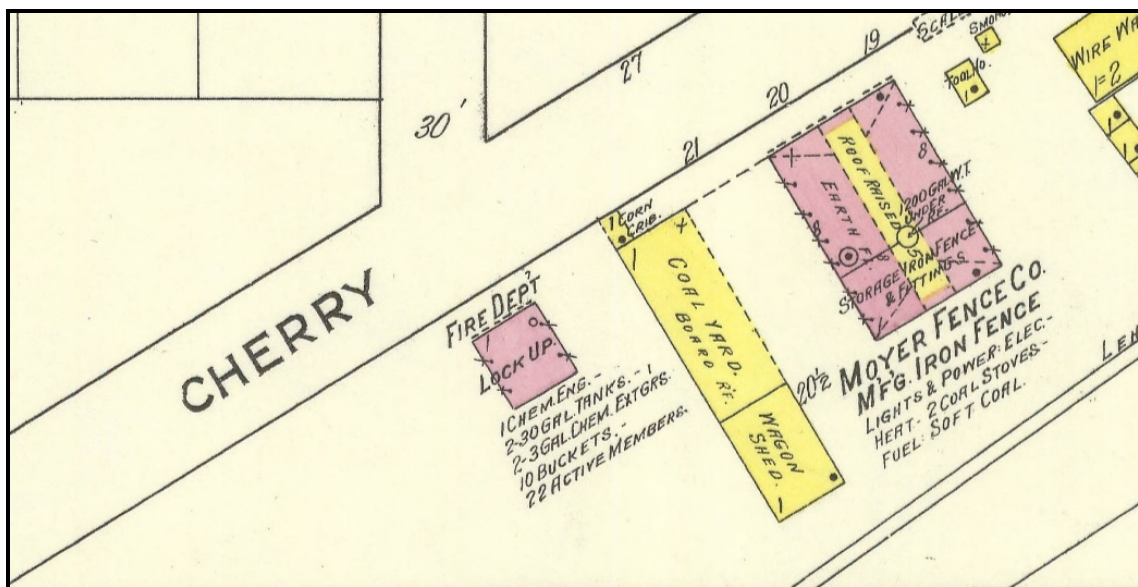
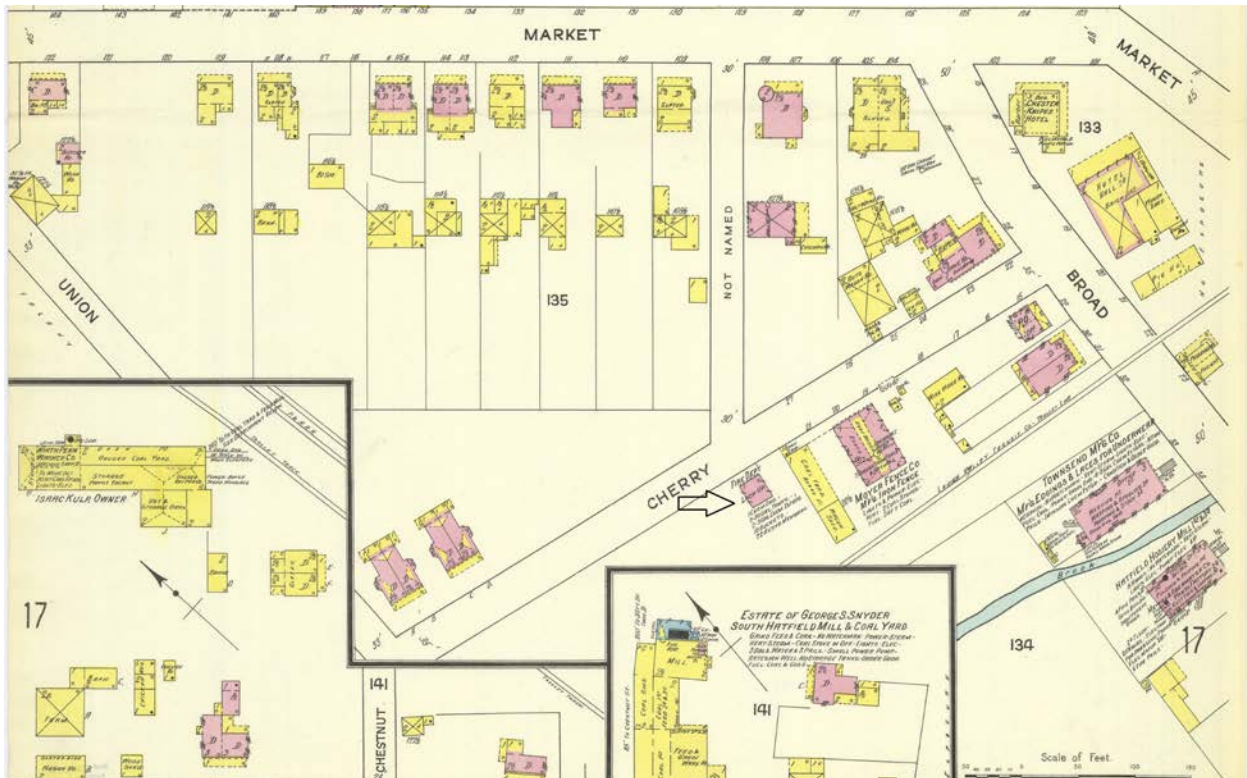


Figure 7, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, c.1914

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
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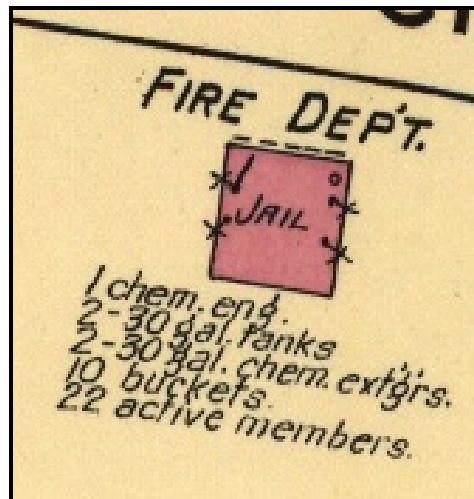
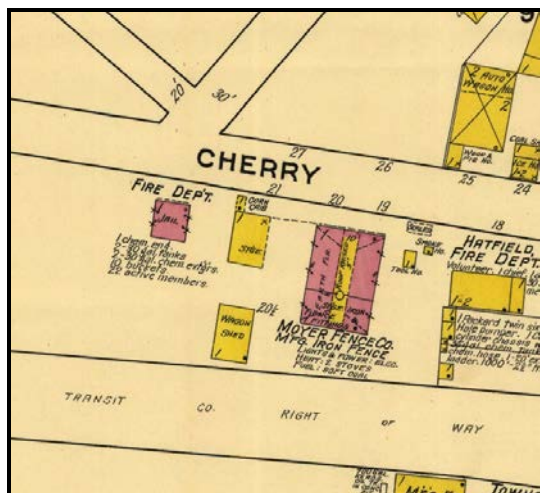
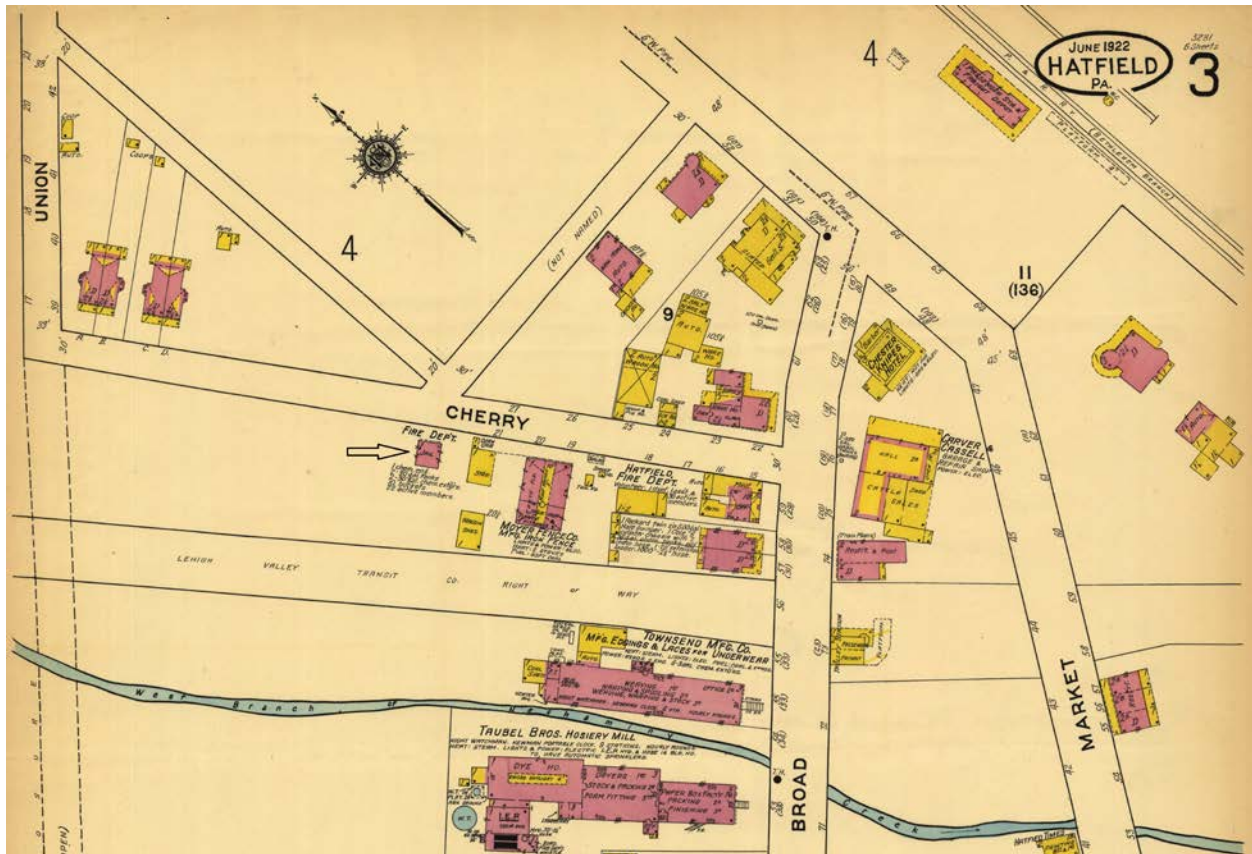


Figure 8, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, c.1922

Also showing the fire department use of a shed on the Jonas Moyer Fence Company property for storage of newer equipment.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

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Figure 9, Aerial Photo, c.1938
Source: Penn Pilot Historic Aerial Photos web site.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
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Figure 10, Photo of Souderton Electric Generating Plant,
Firehouse and Municipal Building, constructed c.1899
Photo taken 12/4/2014 by David Kimmerly.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
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County and State



Figure 11, Upper Photo Sellersville Electric Light and Power Generating Plant, constructed c.1900. Lower Photo shows the building on left.

Upper photo taken 11/22/2014 by David Kimmerly.

Lower photo taken c.1915.

Source lower photo: Sellersville PA: *A Tapestry Through Time*.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
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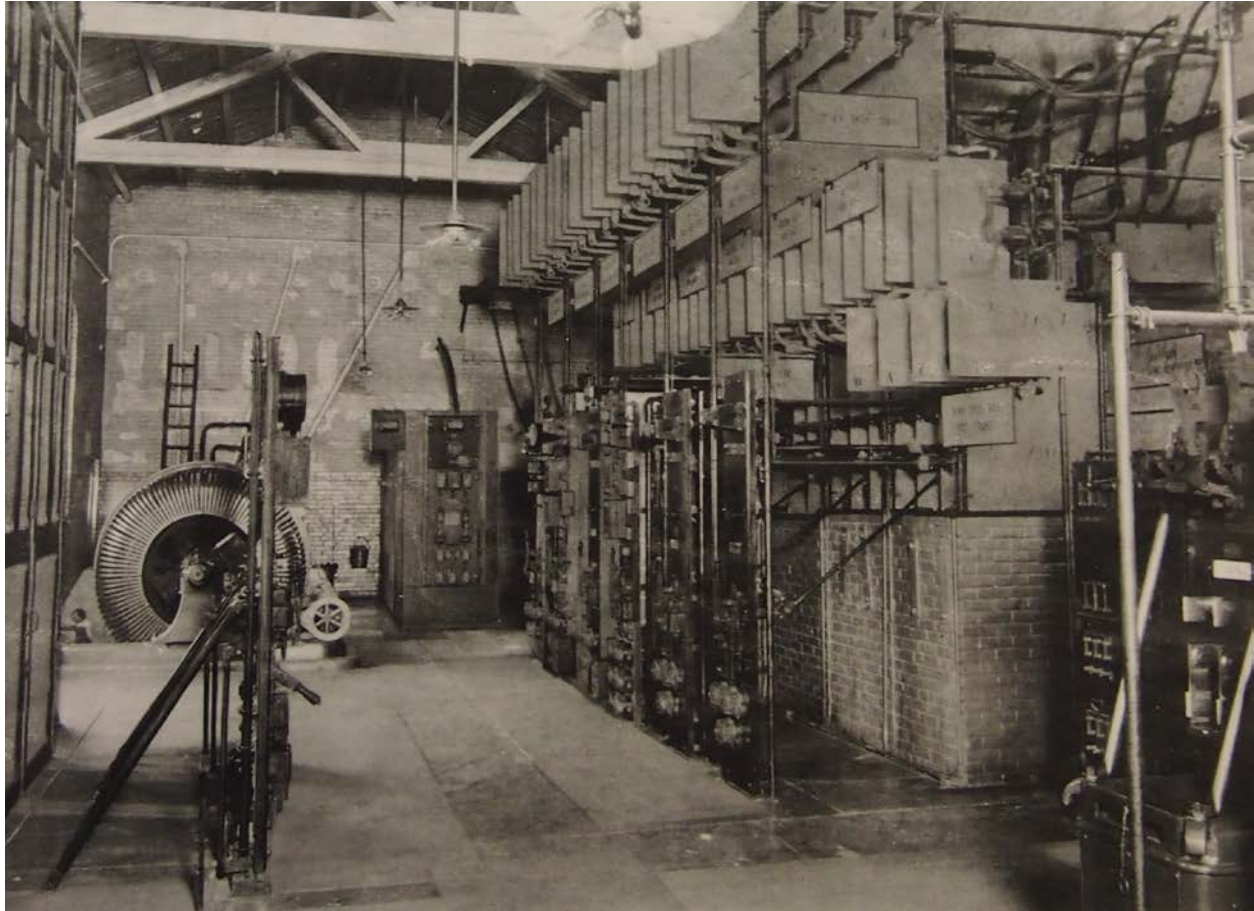
**Figure 12, Photo of Sellersville Substation of Lehigh Valley
Transit Company, constructed c.1912**

This building, which is no longer extant, also served as the electric generating plant for the Excelsior Electric Light and Power Company.

Photo taken c.1947, Source: Sellersville PA: *A Tapestry Through Time*.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
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**Figure 13, Photo of Sellersville Substation of Lehigh Valley
Transit Company, constructed c.1912**

The photo shows the interior of the section operated as the electric generating plant for
the Excelsior Electric Light and Power Company.

Photo taken c.1935, Source: Sellersville PA: *A Tapestry Through Time*.

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**Figure 14, Photo of Lehigh Valley Transit Company Substation,
East Norriton, constructed c.1912**

The building is now used as offices.
Photo taken 10/24/2014 by David Kimmerly.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
Name of Property

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Pumping Station and Electric Light Plant, North Wales, Pa.

**Figure 15, Photo of North Wales Waterworks (left) and Electric
Generating Plant (right).**

The electric light plant was constructed prior to 1909 (c.1900). By 1921 it was taken over by the Philadelphia Suburban Gas & Electric Company which was later absorbed by Philadelphia Electric Company. Fire apparatus was stored in these buildings and there was a lock up on the property as well. Both buildings were demolished, dates of demolition not known. The photo is a black and white post card and was taken c.1910
Source: Lansdale Historical Society Photo collection.

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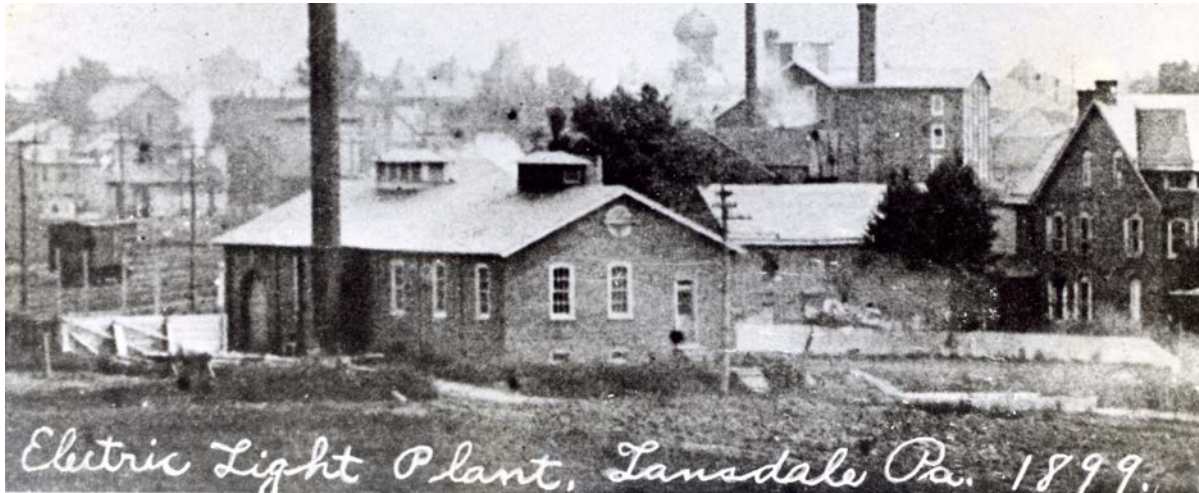


Figure 16, Photo of Lansdale Electric Generating Plant, building in upper photo constructed c.1898. Replaced by building in lower photo, constructed c.1920

The upper photo was taken 1899 of original power plant. It was demolished and replaced by c.1920 building. The c.1920 building was demolished c.1985. The photo of the c.1920 building was taken c.1965.

Source: Lansdale Historical Society Photo collection.

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**Figure 17, Photo of Perkasio Electric Generating Plant,
constructed c.1938**

The building now contains the Borough Electric Services Department. This building replaced the c.1899 Perkasio Electric Generating Plant which also housed borough meeting rooms and a lock up.

Photo taken 11/22/2014 by David Kimmerly.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
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Figure 18, Photo of Quakertown Electric Generating Plant,
constructed c.1922

The building replaced the original Quakertown Electric Plant built c.1904. The above building was demolished c.1971. Source: *Images of America: Quakertown*.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
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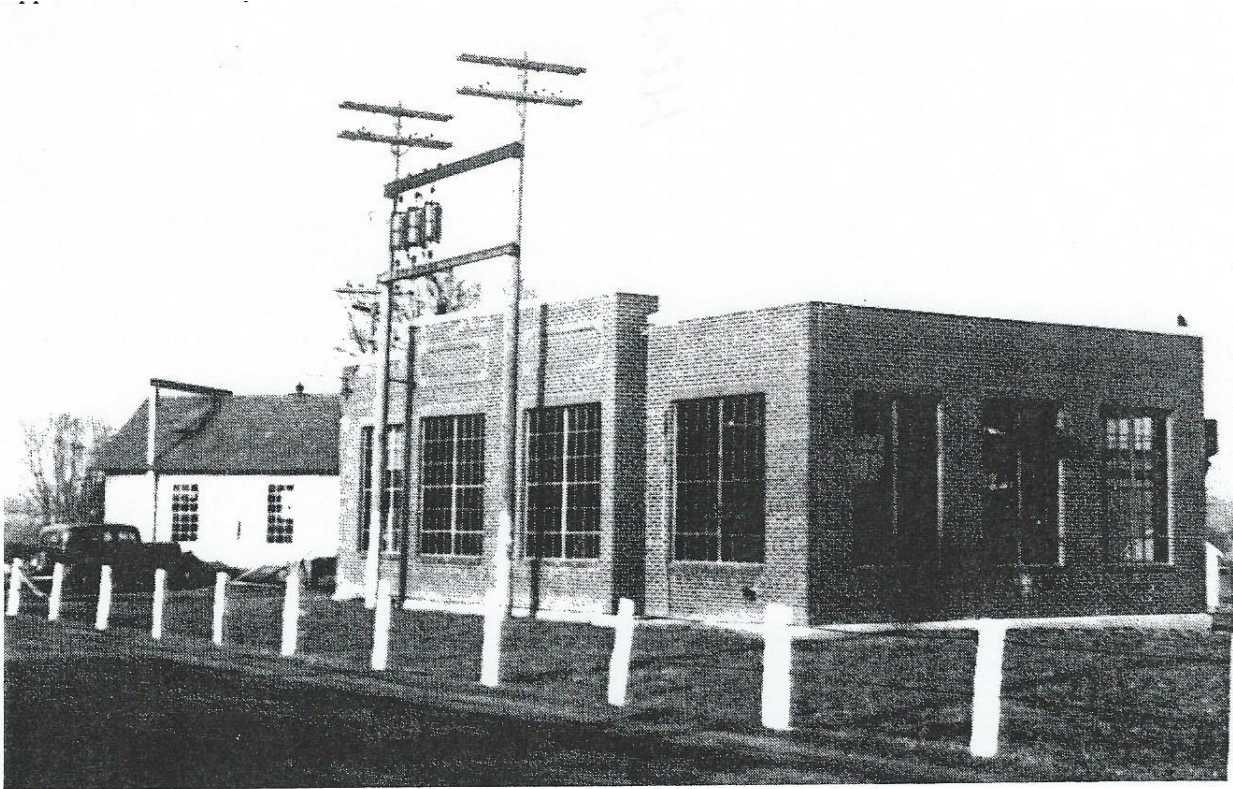


Figure 19, Photo of Hatfield Electric Generating Plant, built c.1931
The c.1931 electric generating plant in Hatfield was demolished in the 1990s.
Source: *History of Hatfield Borough 1898 to 1998*.

Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse
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		Hatfield	% Change			North Wales	% Change
	1900	528			1900	1287	
	1910	705	33.52		1910	1710	32.87
	1920	830	17.73		1920	2041	19.36
	1930	1149	38.43		1930	2393	17.25
Total 1900-1930 % Change			117.61				85.94
		West Telford	% Change			Sellersville	% Change
	1900	534			1900	1247	
	1910	664	24.34		1910	1572	26.06
	1920	921	38.70		1920	1739	10.62
	1930	1252	35.94		1930	2063	18.63
Total 1900-1930 % Change			134.46				65.44
		Souderton	% Change			Perkasie	% Change
	1900	1077			1900	1803	
	1910	1875	74.09		1910	2779	54.13
	1920	3125	66.67		1920	3150	13.35
	1930	3857	23.42		1930	3463	9.94
Total 1900-1930 % Change			258.12				92.07
		Lansdale	% Change			Quakertown	% Change
	1900	2754			1900	3014	
	1910	3551	28.94		1910	3801	26.11
	1920	4728	33.15		1920	4391	15.52
	1930	8379	77.22		1930	4883	11.20
Total 1900-1930 % Change			204.25				62.01

Figure 20, Population Change in Hatfield Borough and nearby municipalities, 1900-1930. Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.



1908
HISTORIC
HATFIELD BOROUGH
MUNICIPAL BUILDING











































H-12
10



NORTH PEEM
WATER AUTHORITY
WELLS
H-12

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Hatfield Borough Substation, Lock Up and Firehouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PENNSYLVANIA, Montgomery

DATE RECEIVED: 11/27/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/30/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/14/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/12/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000972

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 1.12.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
**The National Register
of
Historic Places**

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.

⑦

Hatfield Museum and History Society

POST OFFICE BOX 111
HATFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA 19440-0111

RECEIVED ON

JUL 06 '15

BUREAU FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

July 1, 2015

April Frantz
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Subject: Borough of Hatfield's application to have the Hatfield Borough Substation building on Cherry Street listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dear Ms. Frantz,

As President of the Hatfield Museum and History Society, I am writing to express my support of the Borough of Hatfield's application to have the Hatfield Borough Substation building on Cherry Street listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This unique little building, constructed in 1908, has a lot of history, having served as the electric substation when the Borough first got electricity in that year, and as the first "firehouse" of the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company. When the fire company was organized in 1910, the Borough of Hatfield gave permission for the company to store its hand-pulled chemical engine in this building. The building also contains a single-cell lockup, or jail cell. It is my understanding that no other buildings of this type with such a varied history have been located in Montgomery County, and few others, if any, probably exist in Pennsylvania. Having the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places would help bring public awareness to this very unique building and the important roles it has served in the Hatfield community. I hope that you will look favorably upon this application.

Most Sincerely,



Lawrence G. Stevens, President

Chartered December 18, 1991

Telephone Number (215) 362-0428

ROBERT W. GODSHALL, MEMBER
150 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 202053
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2053
PHONE: (717) 783-6428
FAX: (717) 787-7424

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1702 COWPATH ROAD
HATFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA 19440
PHONE: (215) 368-3500
FAX: (215) 361-4220

E-mail: rgodshal@pahousegop.com

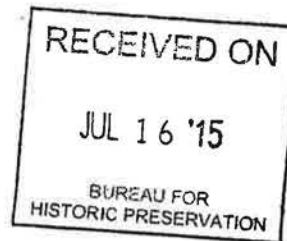


House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Hatfield Borough
COMMITTEES Substation
#7

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN

INSURANCE
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND FINANCE



July 13, 2015

Ms. April Frantz
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

RE: Borough of Hatfield's application to have the Hatfield Borough Substation building on Cherry Street listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dear Ms. Frantz:

I am writing to express my support of the Borough of Hatfield's application to have the Hatfield Borough Substation building on Cherry Street listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This unique little building, constructed in 1908, has a lot of history, having served as the electric substation when the Borough first got electricity in that year, and as the first "firehouse" of the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company. When the fire company was organized in 1910, the Borough of Hatfield gave permission for the company to store its hand-pulled chemical engine in this building. The building also contains a single-cell lockup, or jail cell. It is my understanding that no other buildings of this type with such a varied history have been located in Montgomery County, and few others, if any, probably exist in Pennsylvania.

Having the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places would help bring public awareness to this very unique building and the important roles it has served in the Hatfield community. I hope that you will look favorably upon this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Godshall".

Robert W. Godshall
State Representative
53rd District

(7)

Borough of Hatfield

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania



July 15, 2015

RECEIVED

JUL 20 '15

BUREAU FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Borough Council
President**
John H. Weierman

Vice-President
Kenneth V. Farrall

John Kroesser
Bryan A. Moyer
Lawrence G. Stevens

Mayor
Robert L. Kaler, III

Borough Manager
Michael J. DeFinis

April Frantz
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Subject: Borough of Hatfield's application to have the Hatfield Borough Substation building on Cherry Street listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dear Ms. Frantz,

As President of the Borough of Hatfield's Borough Council I am writing to express my support of the Borough of Hatfield's application to have the Hatfield Borough Substation building on Cherry Street listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This unique little building, constructed in 1908, has a lot of history, having served as the electric substation when the Borough first got electricity in that year, and as the first "firehouse" of the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company. When the fire company was organized in 1910, the Borough of Hatfield gave permission for the company to store its hand-pulled chemical engine in this building. The building also contains a single-cell lockup, or jail cell.

It is my understanding that no other buildings of this type with such a varied history have been located in Montgomery County, and few others, if any, probably exist in Pennsylvania. Having the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places would help bring public awareness to this very unique building and the important roles it has served in the Hatfield community. I hope that you will look favorably upon this application.

Most Sincerely,

John H. Weierman, President Hatfield Borough Council

401 S. Main Street
P.O. Box 190
Hatfield, PA 19440

Phone:
215-855-0781

Fax:
215-855-2075

Email:
admin@
hatfieldborough.com

Website:
www.hatfieldborough.com

7
Borough of Hatfield

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania



RECEIVED ON

JUL 20 '15

BUREAU OF
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

July 15, 2015

Borough Council
President
John H. Weierman

Vice-President
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Mayor
Robert L. Kaler, III

Borough Manager
Michael J. DeFinis

April Frantz
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Subject: Borough of Hatfield's application to have the Hatfield Borough Substation building on Cherry Street listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dear Ms. Frantz,

As Mayor of the Borough of Hatfield I am writing to express my support of the Borough of Hatfield's application to have the Hatfield Borough Substation building on Cherry Street listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This unique little building, constructed in 1908, has a lot of history, having served as the electric substation when the Borough first got electricity in that year, and as the first "firehouse" of the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company. When the fire company was organized in 1910, the Borough of Hatfield gave permission for the company to store its hand-pulled chemical engine in this building. The building also contains a single-cell lockup, or jail cell. It is my understanding that no other buildings of this type with such a varied history have been located in Montgomery County, and few others, if any, probably exist in Pennsylvania. Having the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places would help bring public awareness to this very unique building and the important roles it has served in the Hatfield community. I hope that you will look favorably upon this application.

Most Sincerely,

Robert L. Kaler III, Borough of Hatfield Mayor

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P.O. Box 190
Hatfield, PA 19440

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215-855-0781

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hatfieldborough.com

Website:
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Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

RECEIVED 2280

NOV 27 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

November 10, 2015

Stephanie Toothman, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: Hatfield Substation, Lock Up, and Firehouse; Montgomery County, PA

Dear Ms Toothman:

The Hatfield Substation National Register of Historic Places nomination is being submitted for your review. Enclosed please find a signed first page, a CD containing the true and correct copy of the nomination, a CD with tif images, and paper copies of letters of support.

The proposed action for the nomination is listing in the National Register, and the recommended level of significance is "local." Our staff and Historic Preservation Board members support this nomination. If you have any questions regarding the nomination please contact me at 717-783-9922 or afrantz@pa.gov. Thank you for your consideration of this property.

Sincerely,

April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer/Eastern Region

enc.

Historic Preservation Services
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us
The Commonwealth's Official History Agency