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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  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 23  
other names Foggy Bottom Firehouse

2. Location

street & number 2119 G, N.W.  not for publication  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 DAVID MALONEY, ACTING SHPO 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Patrick Andrews Date of Action 6/6/2007  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Engine Company 23  
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.

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)

19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL/Renaissance Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Foundation Brick  
walls Brick with limestone trim  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Slate  
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 23

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

## Description Summary:

Engine Company 23, located mid-block at 2119 G Street, N.W., was constructed in 1910 in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood in Washington, D.C. The modest-scaled two-story red brick firehouse building with its rear campanile-type tower and distinctive hipped roof is executed in an Arts and Crafts interpretation of an Italian Renaissance Revival style. The design of the building appears to have been a collaboration between the prominent architectural firm of Hornblower and Marshall and the equally respected Municipal Architect Snowden Ashford. This firehouse is the smallest of all Washington firehouses, measuring approximately thirty-five feet wide by ninety feet deep. It is also one of only two firehouses in the city intended to accommodate a single piece of apparatus.<sup>1</sup>

Ornate iron gates enclose the passageway on the east side of the firehouse.<sup>2</sup>

## General Description:

### Exterior:

The south (front) elevation of the firehouse is divided into three bays, dominated by a central pavilion articulated in limestone and outlined by quoins with flanking and contrasting end "wings" of dark brick. Within the limestone pavilion is a large, segmentally arched apparatus door located on center of the first story. Above the door is a panel inscribed with "Engine No. 23 D.C.F.D." A bank of three, single double-hung windows surmounts the arched opening on the floor below. The window sill serves as a base for the centrally placed flag pole.

The dark brick wings to either side of this central pavilion are lit on the first story by long and narrow "slit" openings with narrow 1/1 windows. On the second story, smaller window openings with single paned fixed windows are symmetrically spaced above the first story windows. A wide brick frieze with inset diamonds culminates the building façade. Above, a steeply pitched hipped roof is clad with slate and features wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafters. An eyebrow dormer with vents covered with a decorative grill is located on center of the front slope of the front hip.

The east and west elevations extend eight bays deep to the rear hose tower. These bays are unequally divided by single windows with a pedestrian door located on center. The east elevation of the building

<sup>1</sup> A single house is a firehouse designed to accommodate a single piece of apparatus and usually has only one apparatus door. The other single house, in addition to Engine Company 23, is Engine Company 17 at 1227 Monroe Street, NE, 1902.

<sup>2</sup> A circa 1911 photo of Engine Company 23 shows ornate gates on either side of the firehouse; only the east side gate survives today. (Photo from the collection of Firefighter Jack Gerhart).

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Engine Company 23

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

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is punctuated by a round bay containing one of the building's two spiral staircases. (The other staircase is embedded in the building.)

The north (rear) elevation consists of a rear apparatus door (infilled with brick) on center of the wall and the attached corner hose tower. Although barely visible from the street, the four-story campanile-type hose tower is clearly articulated at the rear of the building. The shaft is constructed of brick and is capped by a hipped roof, supported by paired brackets. The shaft has a recessed panel running the length of the tower on center, with narrow window "slits" and an oculus window at the top. The oculus is ornamented with limestone keystones at the four compass points of the circle.

A sympathetic rehabilitation of the firehouse was performed between 1978 and 1980 which left the exterior and most of the interior intact. At that time, the original tracks which guided the apparatus back into the station were removed.

### Interior:

The interior plan is unusual in D.C. firehouses in that rather than having side-by-side spaces for fire trucks accessed by two apparatus doors on the primary facade, it has two single "stacked" spaces, one behind the other and accessible by single apparatus doors at the front and rear of the building. This arrangement was likely necessitated by the largely built-out Foggy Bottom neighborhood requiring the narrow width of the fire house. The spiral staircases similarly are a concession to the restricted interior space. Today, only the front apparatus door is used; the rear apparatus door has been filled in with brick.

**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**

1910-1957

**Significant Dates**

1910

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Hornblower & Marshall with 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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### Summary Statement of Significance:

The context for firehouses is described in the National Register Multiple Property Listing: *Firehouses in Washington, D.C.* This thematic document divides the approximately 150-year history of firehouses in Washington, D.C. into four periods, distinguished by the organization of firefighting operations and technology, by architectural style and designer. Engine Company 23, constructed in 1910 in an Italian Renaissance Revival style is an excellent illustration of a firehouse from the third period (City Beautiful Movement/Eclectic Period) of firehouse construction between the 1890s and World War I. Designed by prominent architects Hornblower & Marshall and Snowden Ashford, the firehouse has been a lauded and visible landmark of Foggy Bottom since its construction. The building illustrates an innovative plan in that it incorporates a rare rear apparatus door, creating a “stacked” (engine-behind-engine) arrangement of spaces for the engines on the interior. Engine Company 23 is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C with Architecture and Community Planning and Development as the Areas of Significance. The Period of Significance for Engine Company 23 extends from 1910 when the building was constructed until 1957, a point fifty years in the past from the present.

### Resource History and Historic Context:

Built in 1910 to accommodate Engine Company 23, this firehouse on G Street, N.W. has since been in continuous operation. Engine Company 23 is a narrow free-standing structure built in a densely developed neighborhood where efficiency of space was necessary. Upon its construction, the *Washington Post* reported that the cost of land acquisition and improvements totaled \$35,000 and compared the building favorably to the larger, more expensive, contemporaneous Engine Company 2 on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The newspaper lauded the station as “one of the neatest little buildings of its kind in the city. As the residents of that section are proud of it, as shown by the interest which has been taken in its construction...Its arrangements are perfect. Every convenience included in the larger firehouses of this and other cities can be found in this...little beauty.”<sup>3</sup>

In 1928, the firemen of Engine Company 23 nearly set a world record for response time when “they came within 2/5 of a second of equaling the world record for elapsed time in leaving quarters in the first of a group of tests for the District of Columbia Fire Department speed championship. The company left its quarters...in 6 2/5 seconds.”<sup>4</sup> They were undoubtedly abetted by the fact that the second story sleeping quarters were nearly atop the apparatus, an otherwise potentially annoying situation in the early days when horse stalls occupied the first floor and in the latter-day era of truck fumes, etc.

<sup>3</sup> *The Washington Post*, October 30, 1910.

<sup>4</sup> *The Washington Post*, August 14, 1928.

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Engine Company 23

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As vehicular speed increased in time, the service areas for fire stations became larger, causing some firehouses to be "surplussed" as they became redundant. Engine Company 23 was among those identified for sale in 1940, but neighborhood protest saved the building for its original purpose which continues today.

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National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Engine Company 23

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 9 Page 6

Major Bibliographical References:

Baist's Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, DC. Philadelphia: GW Baist, (Vol. 3) 1896, 1903, 1919, 1925, 1931, 1937, 1945, 1954, 1960, 1968, (Vol. 4) 1927, 1936, 1943, 1959.

Berk, Sally L. "The History of Washington, DC's Pre-World War II Firehouses," DC Historic Preservation Division, June 1992.

Biographical Vertical Files, Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

Bushong, William, Judith Helm Robinson, and Julie Mueller. A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter, the American Institute of Architects, 1887-1987. Washington, DC: The Washington Architectural Foundation Press, 1987.

Commission of Fine Arts Minutes. Record Group 66, National Archives.

District of Columbia Archives, Record Group 17, the Department of Public Works, Engineering Department Files, 1897-1953, Part VI: Engine Houses, Box 63.

District of Columbia Fire Department. "Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Honoring D.C.'s Black Men & Women in Blue." Program, July 13, 1985.

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.

Kohler, Sue A. The Commission of Fine Arts, A Brief History, 1910-1976. Washington, D.C.: The Commission of Fine Arts, 1984.

McCarl, Robert. The District of Columbia Fire Fighter's Project, A Case Study in Occupational Folklife. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1985.

Vertical Files. "Fire Department: Engine Houses, 1815-1929, 1930-1939, 1940-1959."

Washington Perspectives, Incorporated. "Firehouse Building Survey," DC Department of Housing and Community Development, 1986.

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



Engine Company 23  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 8,697 square feet

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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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 March 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.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 23

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

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## Verbal Boundary Description:

Engine Company 23 at 2119 G Street, N.W. occupies Lot 5 of Square 79 in the District of Columbia.

## Boundary Justification:

Engine Company 23 has stood on this lot since its construction in 1910.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 23

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

### PHOTOGRAPHS

*The following information is common to all photographs:*

Engine Company 23  
2119 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.  
Kim Williams, photographer  
March 2007  
DC Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO)

- 1) View looking northeast from G Street, NW  
1 of 5
- 2) View looking north showing south elevation  
2 of 5
- 3) View looking south showing north (rear) elevation and hose tower  
3 of 5
- 4) View looking south showing infilled apparatus door on north elevation  
4 of 5
- 5) View looking north along east passageway showing side gate  
5 of 5

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

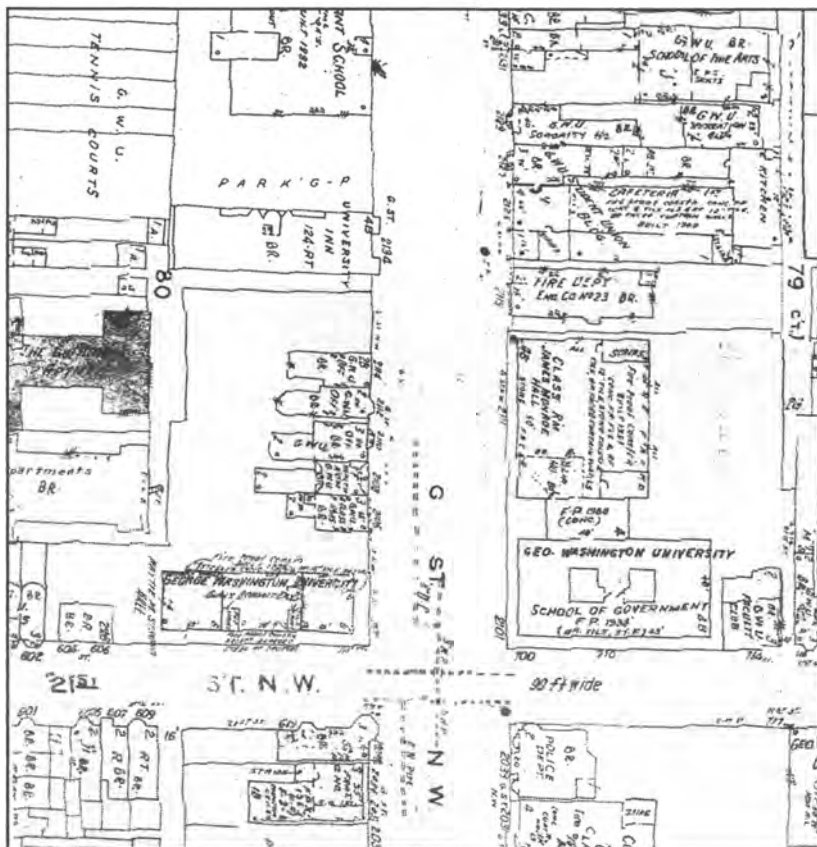
Engine Company 23

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

## SITE MAP



Engine Company 23  
219 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.  
(From Sanborn Map, 1991)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Engine Company 23  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Firehouses in Washington DC MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 4/24/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/14/07  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/29/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/07/07  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000540

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 6/6/07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept AEC  
REVIEWER Patrick Andrews DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 6/6/2007

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.



**BOWERS**

Mechanical Construction, Painting and HVAC Service

301-419-2488

Engine Company 23

2119 G Street, NW

Washington, DC

Kim Williams

3/2007

DC HPO

View looking northeast from G Street

1/5



Engine Company 23  
2119 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
Kim Williams

3/2007

DC HPO

View looking north showing south elevation

2/5





Engine Company 23  
2119 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
Kim Williams

3/2007

DC HPO

View looking south showing north (rear)  
elevation and hose tower

3/5



Engine Company 23

2119 G Street, NW

Washington, DC

Kim Williams

3/2007

DC HPO

View looking south showing enclosed  
apparatus door on north elevation

4/5



Engine Company 23

2119 G Street, NW

Washington, DC

Kim Williams

3/2007

DC HPO

View looking north along east passageway  
showing side gate

5/5



Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500979