

0109

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JAN 27 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Portland Fire Station No. 7
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1036 S.E. Stark
city, town Portland
state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97214

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Eastside Portland

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. 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 the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
Date: January 23, 1989

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[checked] 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:)

Bruce J. Noble, Jr.

5/8/89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
GOVERNMENT; Fire Station

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE; Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER; Commercial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

Located on the western corner of the block, the firehouse and its addition have dimensions that are approximately 100 feet by 110 feet. The original two-story masonry firehouse is roughly 50 feet by 100 feet and is covered by a low gable roof. On the northern, or front, end is a central stuccoed gable dormer. In the middle of the stuccoed gable end there is a six-over-six double-hung sash oval window with multi-panes. On either side of this exposed gable end are small hip extensions. From the roof protrude two skylights, various ducts, and a twelve-foot tall red brick chimney. A tall flagpole tops the dormer. On the south end of the gable roof rises a stepped parapet.

The building is constructed on a concrete foundation with a full basement, and the walls are made of concrete sections and combed brick laid in a common bond. One of the original first-floor multi-paned casement windows is intact; the other windows have been replaced with single-pane aluminum windows. The original metal, multi-paned casement windows are completely intact on the second floor. The panes of glass in the casements have wire mesh within.

All of the windows have concrete sills that contrast with the red brick exterior surface.

The main (north) elevation of the original brick building is divided into three bays. At the first floor level there are two sectional garage doors to the west and three windows in the end bay to the east. The first floor bays are divided by simple concrete pilasters with recessed panels. A concrete belt course divides the first floor from the second floor. The second-floor bays are identical with three sets of multi-paned casements in each; over the top of the windows are red tile hoods held at each end by corbelled brick supports.

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On the east elevation, the first floor multi-paned casement windows are set in pairs. Two recessed standard doors are also found on this elevation. At the far southern end of the east elevation are two more garage door entries. A two-foot wide concrete belt course divides the first floor from the second floor. On the second floor of the eastern elevation, the casement windows are paired, and as on the north elevation, the window openings are accented by red tile hoods and corbelled brick supports. At the top of the building, below a rather substantial wooden cornice, is a frieze that consists of alternating projecting header bricks.

A non-contributing addition to the east of the original firehouse consists of a recent one-and-one-half story mechanics garage, constructed in 1964, that is sided with plywood made to appear like vertical tongue-and-groove. A garage door dominates the street face (north) of this addition. On a portion of this flat-roofed addition, adjacent to the old brick structure, rests a gabled second floor clad with shiplap. This volume represents the handball court that was added in 1930.

The exterior of the original firehouse is in good condition.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the building originally had three separate areas: office, dormitory and vehicular storage and servicing. The office space is generally contained within the northeast corner of the building. Partitioning walls are still in place, although finishing material in the main office has been changed since the historic period. The second floor was devoted to living space for the fire department personnel. All partitioning walls and finishwork are intact, as are the "booths" which enclose the firemen poles. These booths resemble telephone booths or British police boxes. Separate quarters were provided for select personnel, presumably the chief and other upper level staff. The largest percentage of the interior space was devoted to fire vehicles, storage and servicing. The current occupant uses the space for automobile repair and servicing. A handball court is located behind the vehicular space. Although it is now used for inventory storage, the salient materials and electric scoreboard are extant.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

 Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1927

 1927-1939

Significant Dates

1927

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Fire Department Engine Company #7 building, constructed in 1927, is locally significant under criterion A as the "latest and best" under Lee Gray Holden, a nationally renowned architect of firehouse design. The building, which served as the east side headquarters for many years, was the pride of Holden's career. Secondly, the building may be evaluated under criterion C as a well-preserved and handsome example of early modern work, incorporating many of the traditional aspects of firehouse design. The date of construction was established by Fire Bureau records. This large building was a state-of-the-art facility to house the administrative and service functions of the headquarters fire station for Portland's East Side. It served as such through the Depression. Holden was born in Illinois in 1865 and came to Portland in 1885. Two years later he joined the Grant Engine Company No. 2 (later Hose Company No. 3), a volunteer firefighting company located in Stephens Addition (Company No. 2 building, 1917 S.E. 7th, is included with this submission). In 1892, following East Portland's consolidation with the City of Portland, the volunteer companies were incorporated into the City of Portland Fire Bureau. Just prior to this, in November of 1891, Holden became the first paid firefighter on the east side. He remained an employee for the Fire Bureau until 1896, when along with most of the other members of the Fire Bureau, he was fired for political reason by newly elected mayor Sylvester Pennoyer. At this time Holden was a captain of Hose Company No.3. When Pennoyer left office two years later, Holden returned to the Fire Bureau and was appointed Battalion Chief for the east side. He remained in this position until 1908, when he retired to a country home near Zig Zag, where he designed and built the Rhododendron Tavern and Hotel. After operating the inn for three years, Holden returned to Portland.

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Holden's firefighting experience served him well when he returned to the Fire Bureau. By 1911 the east side of Portland had been divided into two districts--northeast and southeast. Holden was appointed Battalion Chief, in charge of the southeast section of the city. This was one of the top four positions in the Fire Bureau under the Fire Chief. Second in command was the Assistant Chief and immediately under him were the three Battalion Chiefs.

The years after consolidation were a period of rapid development for the eastside. The construction of bridges spanning the Willamette and the expansion of streetcar lines led to tremendous growth. The Fire Bureau expanded to keep pace. Of 12 new fire stations constructed between 1911-1913, nine were on the east side of the river, one was downtown and two were in northwest Portland. Holden, in addition to being Battalion Chief, was in charge of repairs and construction of the stations.

An article in the April 18, 1913 edition of The Oregonian reported that, "in two years the city has built nine fire stations. Three... were handled by and architects and the rest... by [Battalion] Chief Holden." According to the article, "Holden's plans and specifications and the adoption of a building economy plan" had kept the cost of all nine stations at \$16,000 each and saved the Fire Bureau an estimated \$45,579.

Although there are a number of similarities between the station houses which Holden designed, no two are identical in design. Five stations designed by Holden between 1912-1920 are still standing. Four of these employ a two-story plan, with sleeping quarters for the firemen upstairs, and the trucks/horses and wagons houses on the ground floor. One of these early stations incorporated many features associated with the Bungalow/Craftsman style which was popular during that time. Located in the Irvington neighborhood of northeast Portland, Holden designed the structure to blend into the surrounding residential area. Instead of the familiar two-story style, as represented in the subject building, this was a one-story building with the kitchen and sleeping quarters in the basement.

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The subject building is the largest existing firehouse designed by Holden. Here, he repeated the standard two-story volume with dormitories on the second floor, and offices, vehicle storage, and--a not so standard item-- handball court below. The firehouse incorporated all the latest vehicle-servicing equipment of the day, and acted as the service center for east side vehicles.

The building is a fine example of a public building incorporating classically inspired stylistic features. The symmetrical facade is enhanced by the interplay of concrete bands, pilasters, window sills, and wall dormer with the common bond brick walls.

In 1923 Holden was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief. Three months later, when the Fire Chief resigned, Holden replaced him, retaining the post until 1927 when he retired. During the time he held these two positions he continued to design fire stations. Holden made many contributions to the improvement of buildings, equipment and training of firefighters. He developed a first aid training program for firemen. He was responsible for developing a small, powerful, fireboat which could pass under a downtown bridge. He encouraged the use of chemical apparatus on fire trucks, devised a method for mounting water turrets on ladder trucks, and put the first self-contained electric lights on trucks. When Holden joined Grant Engine Co. No 2 in 1887, the city had only three volunteer companies. By 1927, when he retired, Portland was served by 44 paid companies.

Holden is credited with the design and construction of 24 firehouses in Portland. Eleven of the 24 are still standing. The earliest of this group was 1912; the last station Holden designed was the subject building. Holden died in 1943 after suffering a stroke while visiting the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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- . City of Portland Building Bureau microform and card files.
- . City of Portland Bureau of Planning, Portland Historic Resource Inventory, 1983.
- . Multnomah County Tax Assessor records, microform, and card files, Portland, 1980.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre Portland, Washington-Oregon 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	10	15	2	17	0	17	15	5	10	4	10	4	17	15
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

East Portland addition, Lot 7 & 8, Block 221

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Taxlot lines

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title K. Zisman, J. Koler, J. Morrison, B. Grimala, A. Yost

organization Hawthorne Blvd. Business Association date August 15, 1988

street & number 615 S.E. Alder telephone (503) 234-4801

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97214

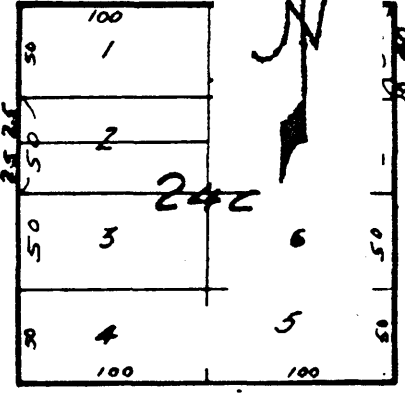
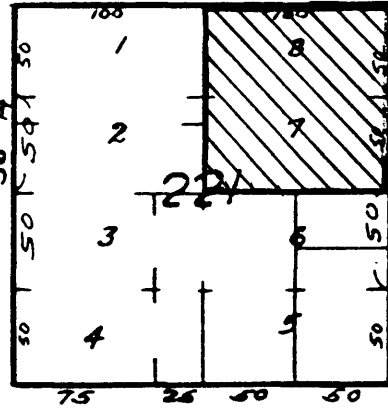
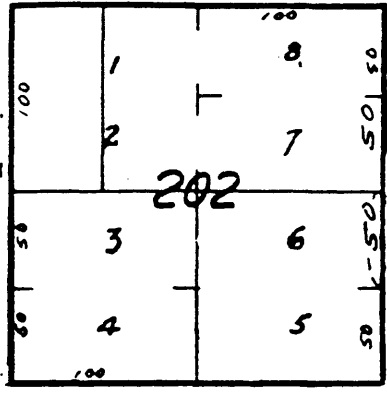
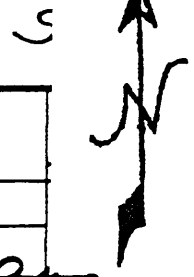
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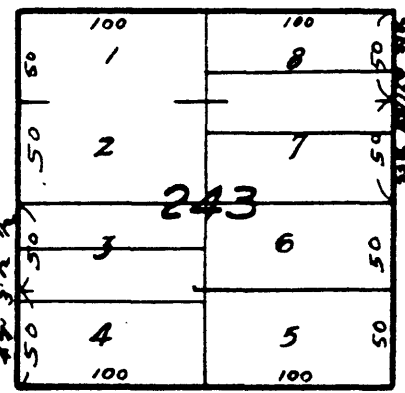
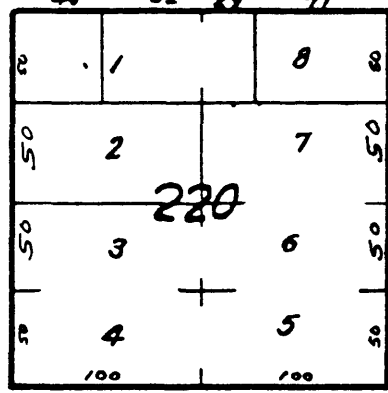
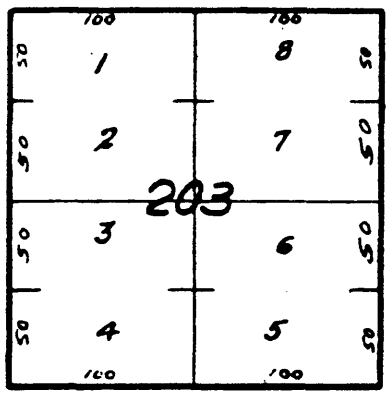
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S.E. Stark



S.E. Washington

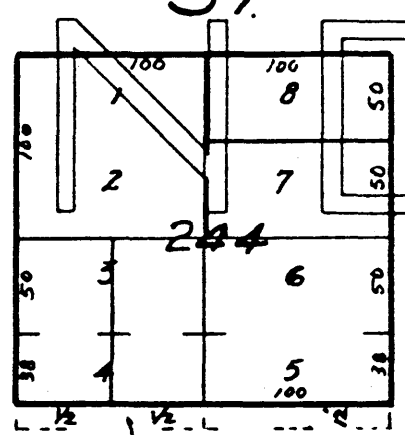
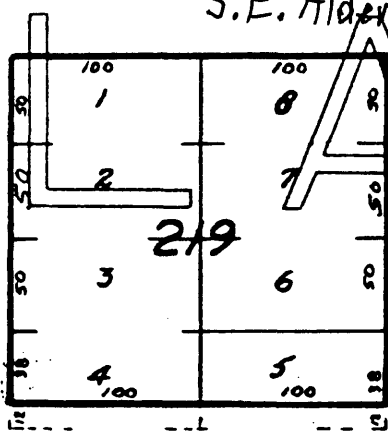
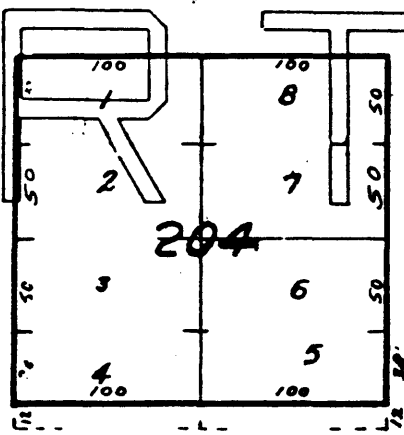
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S.E. 9th AVE.

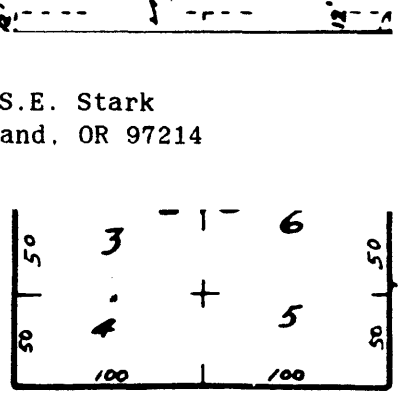
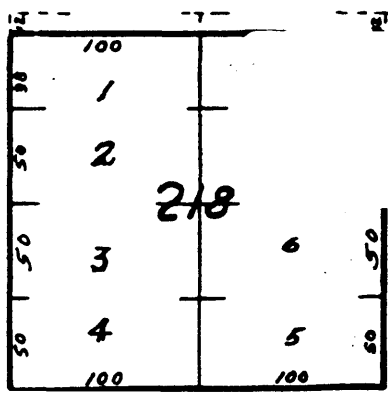
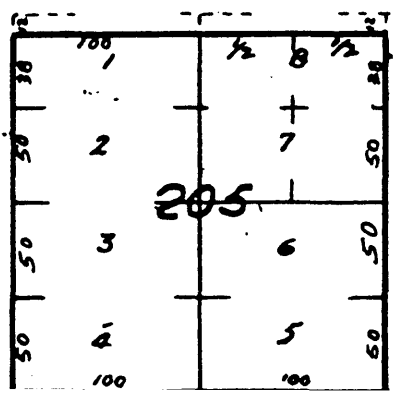
S.E. 10th AVE.

S.E. 11th AVE.



S.E. Morrison

ST



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