

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **SEP 30 1982**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Engine House No. 18

and/or common Engine House No. 18

2. Location

street & number 2616 ~~South~~ Hobart <sup>Bivd.</sup> Boulevard N/A not for publication

city, town Los Angeles N/A vicinity of

state California code 04 county Los Angeles code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Los Angeles

street & number 200 North Spring Street

city, town Los Angeles N/A vicinity of state California 90012

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Los Angeles County Hall of Records; Registry of Deeds

street & number 320 West Temple Street, Floor 7

city, town Los Angeles state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Normandie 5 Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Community Redevelopment Agency, 351 South Spring Street

city, town Los Angeles state California

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Engine House No. 18 is designed in the Mission Revival style. It is two stories tall, with whitewashed stucco over masonry construction. The roof is hidden from view by a parapet.

On the principal (west) facade the ecclesiastical derivation of the Mission Revival is very apparent. Symmetrically composed, the facade is framed by two short square towers with tiled octagonal roofs. Orbs cap the octagons which rest on molded and corbelled cornices. Vents face the front and sides in the towers, and a projecting cornice separates each tower from the second story. The characteristic scalloped parapet, the espadaña, is contained between the towers. Molding traces the curvilinear lines of the espadaña while a flagpole, engaged at its center, provides a vertical accent. Beneath the flagpole is a recessed cartouche containing the words: "Engine House No. 18".

The three bay division of the facade is dominated by a central entry. An overscaled, tiled, pent roof, resting on double elaborately paneled and scrolled brackets and with exposed and notched rafters, shelters the entrance. Beneath the roof the large double doors, attached to the building by metal straps and hinges, are in poor condition and partially boarded over. A pedestrian entry is on the north side of the recess. On the second story, above the entrance, a balcony is recessed with an arched opening. A round-headed double French door with a screen repeats the shape of the arch, as does the plain stucco moulding which outlines the opening. Delineating the balcony is a simple stick railing with turned knobs and pendants at either end. The floor line of the balcony is continued on each side by a short row of painted header bricks.

The side bays of the facade are identical. On the upper level each has a small, recessed, rectangular window with a projecting sill contained within a panel created by whitewashed brick. The brickwork is continued by a string-course between stories and in quoining on the lower story. Slightly inset dark marble panels with inscriptions occupy the lower level of each side bay. The panel on the left (north) identifies: Meredith P. Snyder, Mayor; City Council, Owen McAleer, C.F. Skilling, O.E. Farrish, Theo Summerland, Wm. Bowen, J.P. Davenport, Edward Kern, Robt. Todd, F. Nofziger; Fire Commission, J. Kuhrts, J. Diss, J.P. Uates, A.P. Thomson; Chief Thos. Strohaa; John Parkinson, Architect; Henry R. Angelo, builder. On the right (south) the panel reads: "This building was erected by the City of Los Angeles A.D. 1904 under the administration of the City Council and the Board of Fire Commissioners".

On the south side of the building, a paved side yard is partially defined by a one story extension of the facade wall, containing a rectangular opening. The wall extension is quoined with whitewashed bricks and has a tiled pent roof on notched rafters. Some tiles are missing, and a stuccoed brick pier on the south side of the driveway to the yard is damaged at its top.

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The side elevations are similar, but not identical. On both, a molded espadana abuts the corner tower, and small arched windows with projecting sills are located below the espadanas in the upper story. Rows of small rectangular windows, double hung six over one sash and with protective bars in front and projecting sills below, occupy the upper and lower stories. Downspouts with metal straps punctuate the fenestration. A stringcourse of brick, topped by a row of header bricks, marks the division between levels. Brick also outlines empty panels below the corner towers on the upper level. An octagonal tower detailed like those on the front is located in the northeast corner. On the southeast, a square tower projects from the main body of the building, interrupting the espadana at the roofline. A pent tiled roof on rafters divides the upper and lower levels, and a stringcourse separates the tower from the upper story.

On the rear (east) elevation an espadana over a small central window faces the back yard. The yard is enclosed by a stuccoed wall with a gate at the back. A one story gabled shed is located in the northeast corner of the yard, and a newer shed with a corrugated metal roof is next to it. A gas pump and tanks were added at a later date; these have now been removed.

A fine example of its style and of civic architecture of the period, Engine House No. 18 is virtually unaltered. The only alteration of any significance consists of the removal of a spire originally placed atop the tower located at the southeast corner of the main building. This is clearly of a minor nature, and it does not impact the architectural integrity of the building. Additional impacts are vandalism to the doors, side court wall and pier, missing window panes and graffiti. It is located on a residential street of bungalows, just south of the commercial strip on Adams Boulevard.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Fire Protection
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1904 **Builder/Architect** John Parkinson (architect)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Henry R. Angelo (builder)

Engine House No. 18 is significant for its age, association with a prominent Los Angeles architect, its virtually unaltered condition, as an excellent example of its style, and as one of the oldest remaining City of Los Angeles Fire Stations.

A Los Angeles County Deed, recorded on November 9, 1904, describes the sale of the lot to the City of Los Angeles. The grantors, W.H. and Lou Neiswander, sold the property in consideration of the sum of \$900. The cornerstone was laid in 1904 and construction continued throughout most of 1905. The structure was formally placed in commission on April 1, 1906. The cost of construction was \$7,405.

The architect, John Parkinson, chose the Mission Revival style for his design of the Engine House. Mr. Parkinson was one of the most prolific and important architects in Los Angeles during the first three decades of the twentieth century. Numbered among his most important early works are the Jacoby Building, the Angeles Hotel, the Alexandria Hotel, the Braly Building, the King Edward Hotel, the Metropolitan Building, Bullock's Wilshire, the Rowan Building, the Washington Building, Citizen's National Bank, the L.A. Trust Building, the Los Angeles Athletic Club, and the Rosslyn Hotels. Engine House No. 18 is the best known example of the Mission Revival style as designed "solely" by Parkinson. In addition, it was his first major commission of a public building. Later, more well known, examples of Parkinson's public architecture include the original Coliseum in Exposition Park; also, he was on the design team for Los Angeles City Hall.

When it was placed into commission, Engine House No. 18 was a "state-of-the-art" building. It was completed as part of a major expansion program of the Los Angeles Fire Department designed to upgrade the quality of fire protection in what were then outlying residential districts. Parkinson was an acknowledged expert in the field of fireproof construction and although the design of the building seems dated today, its masonry construction with the use of incombustible tile and chemically treated wood was a major advance at the time of its completion. In addition, the Engine House was originally equipped with some of the first steamers ever to be used in residential areas. It was not however, until 1921 that the Department completely motorized its equipment.

Engine House No. 18 was also one of the last buildings designed entirely by Parkinson. In 1905, Parkinson went into partnership with G.E. Bergstrom. The firm of Parkinson & Bergstrom was one of the largest in Los Angeles for the ten years of its existence. Following the dissolution of the Bergstrom partnership, Parkinson joined into business with his son Dan. The firm of Parkinson & Parkinson was also extremely prolific, producing such buildings as the Title Insurance Building, Title Guarantee Building and the Wilshire Medical Building.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Los Angeles Times: January 10, 1904, V, 1; January 1, 1906, II, 2.

John Parkinson Incidents By The Way, George Rice Press, Los Angeles, 1935.

City of Los Angeles: Building Permits.

County Archives: Hall of Records

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 0.15 acre

Quadrangle name Hollywood

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	1	3	7	9	3	7	0	3	7	6	6	3	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Property occupies its original site, a 50 x 133' parcel designated as: Block 2, Lot 7 of Charles Victor Hall Tract of the City of Los Angeles.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A		N/A	

state	code	county	code
N/A		N/A	

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Planning Department Roger G. Hatheway (Consultant)

organization Community Redevelopment Agency date May 1982

street & number 354 South Spring Street telephone (213) 977-1660

city or town Los Angeles state California

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *K. Miller*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9-29-82

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

10/29/82

*Debra Byrne*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

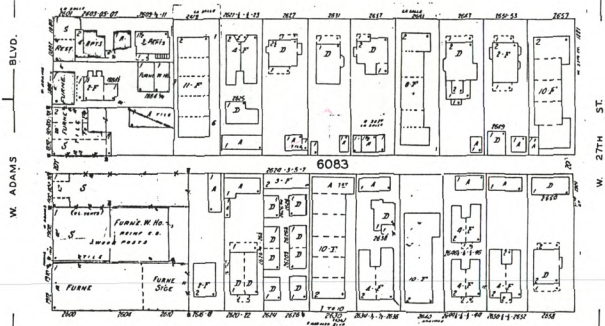
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A number of the Parkinson firm buildings are currently listed on the National Register. The majority of these are included in the Los Angeles Broadway and Spring Street Districts. The significance of Engine House No. 18, certainly the smallest in size of any of his known buildings, was not identified, however, until the recent completion of the Community Redevelopment Agency Architectural/Historical Survey of the Normandie 5 Project Area. The building was reviewed in the field by State Historic Preservation Office staff, who concurred with the consultant recommendation that it was a potential candidate for nomination. Today, the building is threatened by its vacant condition, vandalism and possible sale and demolition.

In summary, Engine House No. 18 is significant as an excellent and virtually unaltered example of the Mission Revival style. It is also a pivotal building in the career of a prominent architect as it was Parkinson's first major public commission and was one of the last buildings designed entirely by John Parkinson. In addition, it was constructed as part of an important expansion program of the City of Los Angeles Fire Department and was of the most modern construction when first completed. It serves, therefore, as an important architectural and historical reminder of the history and growth of Los Angeles. And, as one of only a handful of fire stations remaining from horse and carriage days, it retains and presents a powerful sense of time and place.



6083

W. ADAMS BLVD.

W. 27TH ST.



S. HARVARD BLVD.



6080

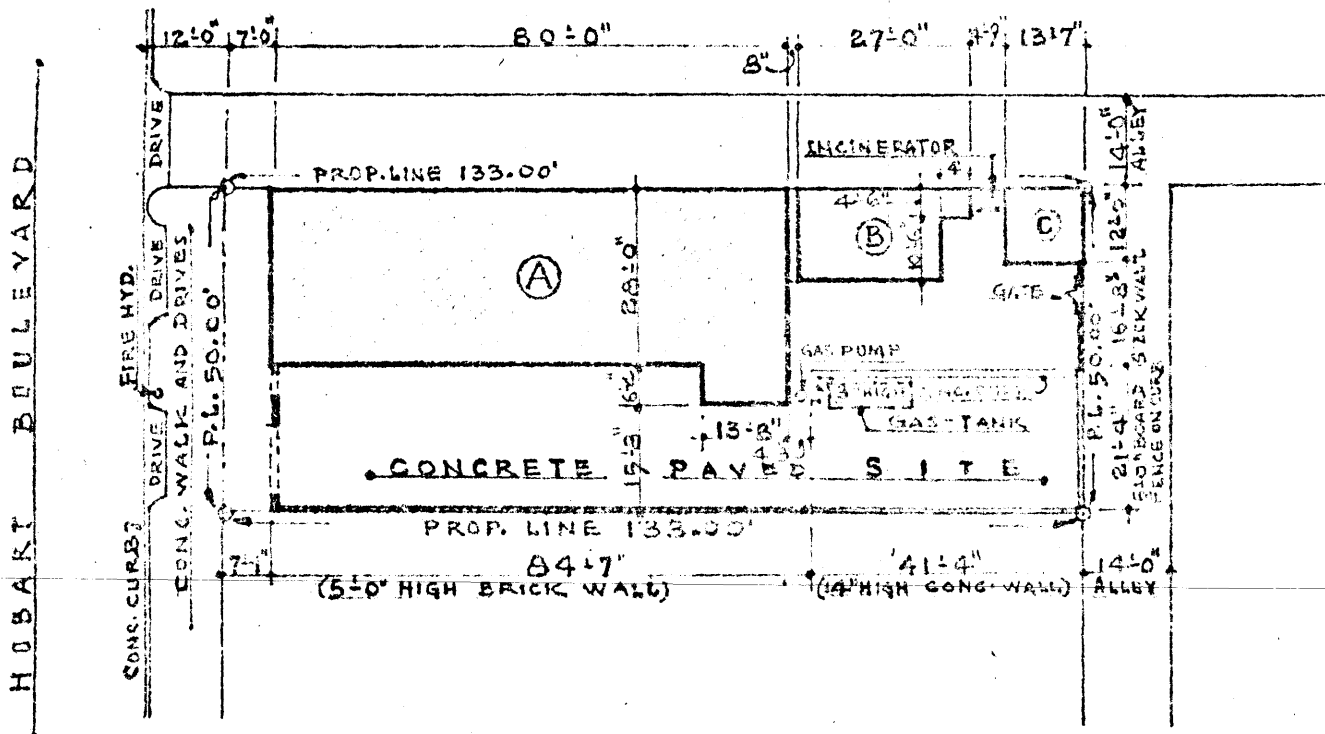
S. HARVARD BLVD.

S. HOBART BLVD.

Engine House No. 18  
 2616 S. Hobart Blvd.  
 Los Angeles  
 Los Angeles County  
 California

I N D E X

BLDG. NO.	BUILDING NAME	TYPE OF CONSTRUCT.	NO. OF STORIES
60/13	S I T E		
(A)	MAIN BUILDING	BRICK & STUCCO	TWO
(B)	KITCHEN	WOOD "	ONE
(C)	BIL. ROOM	BRICK "	"



ENGINE HOUSE NO. 18  
 2616 S. Hobart Blvd.  
 Los Angeles  
 Los Angeles County  
 California

**P L O T P L A N 1" = 30 FT.**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**  
 FOR COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION SEE SHEET NO. 2  
 WE 5 AND NO. 7-5-5 AND DISTRICT MAP 4800  
 5-5 AND FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER - NUMBER  
 9-203.

CONSE. W/O.      DWG. W/O.      WORK TICKET

BUREAU OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DIRECTOR

**P L O T P L A N**      BLDG. NO. 60/13

FIRE STATION NO. 18  
 2616 S. HOBART BLVD.  
 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
 FIRE DEPARTMENT

DRAWN BY: [Signature]      DATE: MAR. 6, 1962      REPORT NO.      PLAN NO.      SHEET 1-2

ORALID OR BLUE-PRINT TRIM LINE