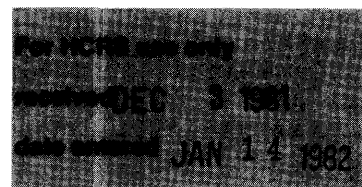


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Fire Station #19
and/or common Fire Station #19

2. Location

street & number 2001 University Avenue S.E.
city, town Minneapolis
state Minnesota code 22 county Hennepin code 053

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
[X] building(s) [X] private [X] unoccupied [X] commercial
[X] structure [] both [X] work in progress [] educational
[] site Public Acquisition Accessible [] entertainment
[] object [] in process [X] yes: restricted [] government
[] being considered [] yes: unrestricted [] industrial
[] no [] military [] other:

4. Owner of Property

name Fire Station #19, A Minnesota Partnership
street & number 2001 University Avenue S.E.
city, town Minneapolis state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hennepin County Government Center
street & number 5th Street at 3rd Avenue South
city, town Minneapolis state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? [] yes [X] no
date [] federal [] state [] county [] local
depository for survey records
city, town state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Fire Station #19 is situated on the northeast corner of University Avenue and Oak Street. The two story brick building is typical of many of the fire stations built in Minneapolis during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The building is rectangular in plan and measures approximately 100' by 45'. Approximately two thirds of the ground floor is occupied by a single open space for the fire fighting equipment. The rear third of the building was originally used as stables, and more recently was used for storage, a kitchen, and a hose drying tower. A few original finishes, most notably the heavy plank floor, remain. The second floor was used as recreational space, toilet facilities, locker rooms, and sleeping areas for the firefighters; these areas have been somewhat altered.

The building employs a typical turn-of-the-century technique to create the large open space required for the fire fighting equipment. Large trusses, averaging over ten feet deep, span the entire building above the second floor ceiling. These trusses support a series of steel suspension rods which, in turn, support the second floor. This construction technique is a good illustration of the level of engineering design and building technology available eighty five years ago.

The primary architectural feature of the building is its exterior elevation. Although designed as a utilitarian building, Fire Station #19 incorporates many design elements frequently found in more elegant structures. This special attention is reserved for the main facade on the south, however, with the other three facades being simple brick walls with little decorative treatment; in fact, the north and east facades, which were not intended for general view, are constructed of common buff colored bricks rather than the red face bricks of the two street facades.

The principal facade is two stories high and four bays wide. There originally was a third story bell tower at the southwest corner of the building. The two central bays are the most highly decorative portions of the building. On the first floor are the two large doors for the fire equipment, which are recessed from the main plane of the building and from the floor above. A second floor balcony provides weather protection to the main doors as well as decoration and an outdoor space for the personnel. There are large round-headed windows which extend nearly the full width of the central bays on the second floor. The upper portions of these windows are filled with wood rather than glass, but the radial divisions create the impression of glass to the casual observer. A heavy corbeled cornice gives added emphasis to this central section of the building.

The outer two bays of the south facade and the entire west facade have a much simpler treatment, with plain brick walls and regularly spaced rectangular window openings. Decoration is limited to two belt courses, one stone and one brick, and a simple cornice; there are also two stone panels on the upper portions of the south facade which indicate the station number and date of construction.

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 checked="" 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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	recreation, sports	

Specific dates 1893 **Builder/Architect** Minneapolis Building Inspections Office

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Station #19 is an excellent example of firehouse design from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although the bell tower was removed many years ago, the remainder of the exterior is essentially as it was originally constructed. Fire Station #19 is historically significant for the important fire protection service it rendered the citizens of Minneapolis for eighty three years. In addition, the building is significant as one of the city's few surviving technological links with the horsedrawn era. One of the last Minneapolis firehouses to become fully motorized, Fire Station #19 was apparently using horse-drawn equipment as late as 1922. Fire Station #19 is historically significant as the birthplace of a major variant of American softball known as "kittenball." The inventor and organizer of kittenball was Louis Rober, a lieutenant with the Minneapolis Fire Department who was stationed at Fire Station #19 from 1896 through 1906. During this period, Rober adapted the rules of baseball to create a sport requiring less space, time, and equipment than the traditional ball game. Although the Amateur Softball Association, established in 1933, changed some of Rober's original rules, modern softball still closely resembles the game which the firemen at Station #19 played at the turn of the century. The building has successfully been adapted for use as architects offices and a restaurant.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas of Minneapolis Minnesota, Vol. 5. Chicago: Rascher Insurance Map Publishing Co., 1892, updated to 1909. (In possession of the Minnesota Historical Society).

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.2

Quadrangle name St. Paul West, MN

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A	<u>15</u>	<u>482160</u>	<u>4980120</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert G. Mack, Partner

organization MacDonald and Mack Partnership date July 16, 1979

street & number 750 Grain Exchange Building telephone (612) 341-4051

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/8/80

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Groover date 1/14/82
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Linda McClelland date 1/3-82
 Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DEC 3 1981
JAN 14 1982

DATE ENTERED

Fire Station #19

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

- | CONTINUATION SHEET | ITEM NUMBER | PAGE |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Major Bibliographical References | 9 | 1 |
| Caine, Matthew T., ed. <u>Official Kitten League Guide</u> . St. Paul: no pub., 1916. | | |
| Gove, Charles L. to City of Minneapolis. Warranty Deed, October 17, 1892.
<u>Book 375 of Deeds</u> , p.3. | | |
| "Half a Million Minneapolitans to Watch 10,000 Diamond Ball Players This Year."
<u>Minneapolis Tribune</u> , May 24, 1936. | | |
| Hallinan, T.G. "'Let's Play Ball.'" <u>American City</u> , XXXVII (November, 1927), p. 634. | | |
| Heath, Richard L. "History of the Minneapolis Fire Department, 1851-1916."
Unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of Minnesota, 1957. | | |
| Hess, Jeffrey A. Interview with Richard L. Heath. August 15, 1978. | | |
| "Indoor Baseball." <u>Time</u> , XXXIV (November 27, 1939), p. 62. | | |
| <u>Insurance Maps of Minneapolis Minnesota</u> , Vol. 8. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1913.
_____. Updated to 1938. (In possession of the Minneapolis Public Library) | | |
| Menke, Frank G., ed. <u>The Encyclopedia of Sports</u> . South Brunswick and New York:
A.S. Barnes and Company, 1975. | | |
| <u>Minneapolis City Council Proceedings</u> . January 30, 1891, p. 25; July 29, 1892,
p. 363; January 30, 1893, p. 27; March 30, 1893, p.141; May 5, 1893, pp. 252-253. | | |
| Minneapolis Fire Department. <u>Annual Reports</u> . 1890-1914; 1930-1950. (Title, place
of publication, and publisher vary) | | |
| Minneapolis Inspections Department. Building Permits. | | |
| Paul, F.T. and A.M. Larson. "(Plans of) Fire Station No. 19." W.P.A. 665-71-3-208.
August 4, 1939. | | |
| "Pride of '93' Comes Down in Fall." <u>Minneapolis Star</u> , May 21, 1976. | | |
| Sands, A.T. "Eau Claire Plays Kittenball." <u>American City</u> , XL (May, 1929), pp. 53-54. | | |
| <u>Seventh Biennial Report of the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota . . .
for the Fiscal Years 1891 and 1892 . . .</u> Minneapolis: Harrison & Smith, State
Printers, 1892. | | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 3 1981
DATE ENTERED	JAN 14 1982

Fire Station #19

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Major Bibliographical References	9	2
University of Minnesota to Charles L. Gove. Warranty Deed, October 15, 1892. <u>Book 359 of Deeds, p. 278.</u>		
Zalusky, Joseph W. "Kitten League Ball Game: A History." <u>Hennepin County History</u> , XXVI (Spring, 1967), pp. 21-23.		
<u>Atlas of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Vol. %</u> . Chicago: Rascher Insurance Map Publishing Company., 1892, updated to 1909. (In possession of Minnesota Historical Society)		

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	1/82
DATE ENTERED	JAN 14 1982

Fire Station #19, Minneapolis, MN; Hennepin County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE

Legal Description:

Lot 10, and that part of Lot 9 lying northeasterly of southwesterly 20 ft. thereof, Block 14, Regents Addition.

Less than one acre