

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 National Register 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: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 301 Walnut Street

City or town: Royersford State: PA County: Montgomery

Not For Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

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 X C ___ D



Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy SHPO Date 9/27/2019
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission - State Historic Preservation Office
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ Date _____

Title : _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government


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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:)


Signature of the Keeper

11/25/19
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government / Fire Station / Firehouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant / Not in Use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian / Italianate

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Walls: Brick; Foundation: Stone

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

The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 is located at 301 Walnut Street, on the north corner of the intersection of Walnut Street and South 3rd Avenue in Royersford Borough, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania (Figure 1; USGS 1983). The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 is a two-and-one-half-story, brick firehouse constructed in 1897-98. The firehouse has a shingled gable roof with a prominent cross gable on its southeast side. A three-story tower is located at the northeast corner of the firehouse. The firehouse is Italianate in style and features hallmarks of the style such as rounded, arched windows; wide, prominent eaves with decorative brackets; and a wide cornice with molded panels. The firehouse's southwest elevation, which faces South 3rd Avenue, is two bays wide, front-gabled, and symmetrical, and features limestone quoins and a low, limestone water table. The southeast elevation is six bays wide and features a prominent off-center cross-gable. A single-story, brick, garage/rear engine room, constructed at the same time as the firehouse, is located at the northeast end of the building. The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship. The interior of the firehouse has been meticulously well-maintained and possesses a high level of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The interior division of space is largely unaltered from the early twentieth century, and is reflective of the building's use and function as a firehouse. The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 retains all seven aspects of integrity.

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Narrative Description

Exterior Description

The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 is a two-and-one-half-story, brick firehouse constructed in 1897-98. The firehouse has a shingled gable roof with a prominent cross gable on its southeast side. A three-story tower is located at the northeast corner of the firehouse. There is a single-story, brick garage attached to the northeast end of the firehouse, which was constructed at the same time as the firehouse (Figures 2, 3, and 4; Photographs 1-4). The firehouse is Italianate in style and features hallmarks of the style such as rounded, arched windows and wide, prominent eaves with decorative brackets (in this case, paired large modillions interspersed with smaller brackets). The wide cornice has molded panels. The brickwork is laid in running bond.

The firehouse's southwest elevation, which faces South 3rd Avenue, is two bays wide, front-gabled, and symmetrical. The southwest elevation has limestone quoins and a low, limestone water table. The first story has one centered vehicular opening, which consists of a modern overhead garage door. The limestone surround of the garage door has quoins and two segmental arches. The keystones topping the arches are inscribed "18" and "97," reflecting the year of the firehouse's construction (Photograph 5). Originally, there were two vehicular doors in the first story; these were replaced with a single overhead door in 1932, as the smaller doors were inadequate to accommodate a recently acquired ladder truck (Figures 5-11) (Shaner 1983:31, 33). The second-story fenestration consists of two sets of three modern, double-hung, simulated divided-light windows with a nine-over-nine pattern. Each set of windows has a continuous limestone sill and a limestone rounded arch surround. The keystones capping the rounded arches are engraved with "18" and "83" (the year of the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1's founding) (Photograph 5). Based on historic photographs (Figures 6, 7, 9, and 13), the original second-story fenestration consisted of paired, double-hung windows with a three-light gothic transom. The windows were replaced in the second half of the twentieth century and now semi-circular panels occupy the space of the original transom windows. The gable wall is delineated by prominent cornice returns and has a centered, single-pane window with a brick rounded arch surround. This window was originally a multi-paned arched window.

The southeast elevation is six bays wide and faces Walnut Street. The prominent off-center cross-gable is centered over the second and third bays from the south, disrupting the overall symmetry of the otherwise symmetrical façade. The six bays are defined by brick pilasters that extend the height of the elevation, creating slightly recessed bays, within which fenestration and door openings are centered. The larger modillions are paired at the top of each pilaster; three smaller brackets are located in the cornice above the recessed bays. On the first story, four of the six bays contain identical windows. Each of these windows is a modern double-hung replacement window with simulated divided lights in a pattern of eight over 12. Each window has a six-pane, fixed light above the top sash. Each window surround has a simple rectangular limestone sill and is topped with a brick segmental arch comprised of three courses of rowlocks. Pedestrian doors are located in the southernmost bay and the second from the northernmost bay of the first story. These doorways were altered between the mid-1950s and early 1980s, based on historic photographs; the original doors were wider and larger, with multi-paned transom lights (Figures 6 and 7). The area above the modern pedestrian doors was infilled

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with brick when the doors were replaced. The six windows of the second story are identical, and are vertically aligned with the windows/doors of the first story. Like the first-story windows, those on the second story are modern double-hung replacement windows with simulated divided lights in a pattern of eight over 12, with a fixed, six-pane light above the top sash. The windows have the same limestone sills as those of the first story; however, the top of the surrounds have rounded brick arches, instead of segmental, reflective of the differing limestone arches of the southwestern elevation. The rounded arches consist of three courses of rowlocks and spring from supports of brick corbels. The space above the fixed light and below the brick arch consists of a lunette panel, painted white. Historic photographs show that the original double-hung windows were taller than their modern replacements and had a lunette light above the top sash in place of this panel. There is a diamond-shaped area of patterned brickwork centered in each bay, located between the first- and second-story windows. Three courses of decorative corbeled brickwork run across the top of each bay's recessed surface, slightly above the second-story arched window surrounds. The gable wall features prominent cornice returns, like that of the southwest elevation, and has a single, circular, brick-lined window opening. There is a panel replacing the window (the original window was retained and is stored in the firehouse's attic).

There are two windows located in the second story of the northeast elevation of the firehouse. Both windows are one-over-one, double-hung, sash windows, set into simple frames. Although these windows were not original to the building, they were extant by 1953, based on historic photographs (Figure 12). There are no entrances in this elevation, the first story of which abuts the single-story garage/rear engine room.

The firehouse's northwest elevation is six bays wide. The division of space is similar to that of the southeast elevation; brick pilasters define the six bays, which have vertically aligned fenestration. The fenestration is the same as that in the southeast elevation, with the exception of the first-floor windows in the northernmost two bays, which are shorter than the rest, and do not have the fixed six-pane light above the top sash. The window surrounds are identical to those of the southeast elevation. The second-story window in the southernmost bay has been replaced with a modern door, allowing egress from the second floor via a metal fire escape. The portion of the wall above the door and below the arch window surround has been infilled with replacement brick. The northwest elevation lacks the patterned brickwork that is located in the southeast elevation between the first- and second-story windows. The concrete foundation is visible at the base of the elevation; it is unclear whether this elevation had a limestone plinth, like the southeast and southwest elevations. Semi-circular, brick-lined areaways are located at the base of the wall, shielding three basement windows, which are vertically aligned with the fenestration in the second, third, and fourth bays from the south.

A two-bay garage—which functioned as the rear engine room—is located on the northeast end of the firehouse. The garage/rear engine room was constructed in 1898, at the same time as the rest of the firehouse, and originally served as a “wagon house,” which housed the company's “express wagons” (Shaner 1983:21). The southeast elevation of the garage is faced in brick and has a tall parapet, creating a slight false front, obscuring the structure's side-gabled, shingle roof from view. Each bay has a modern, rolling garage door with three horizontal, fixed windows. A pedestrian door is located at the south end of the garage's southeast elevation, at the

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abutment of the garage structure and southeast elevation of the firehouse. The garage was constructed at the same time as the firehouse. Photographs from the 1950s illustrate the changes to the garage's southeast elevation during the second half of the twentieth century. In the mid-1950s, the elevation had one set of wooden barn doors, three double-hung windows, and horizontal siding. The brick façade may have been revealed in 1983, when the building underwent a renovation campaign, at which time it was reported that new electric door openers for the garage/rear engine room had been presented by the Ladies Auxiliary (Shaner 1983:51, 53). The other three elevations of the garage are finished in stucco; the gable walls in the northeast and southwest elevations have horizontal vinyl siding. There is neither fenestration, nor entrances, in the northeast and northwest elevations of the garage; there is a single pedestrian door in the southwest elevation.

The square tower is located in the northeast corner of the firehouse. The tower is of frame construction. There are paired, double-hung windows centered in the third-story level of each elevation. The tower has a shingled, hipped roof with a flat top, encircled by a low banister. An air horn is located on top of the tower. The tower originally housed a bell (located at the level of its current roof), and was topped with a pyramidal, slate roof. In 1953, the top of the tower was removed due to concerns over the state of the roof and woodwork (the bell had been sold in 1938) (Shaner 1983:35, 39) (Figure 12).

A late twentieth-century, prefabricated, metal shed was located northwest of the garage. This shed was partially located on the adjacent property, which is owned by Royersford Borough. Royersford Borough demolished the shed in early spring 2018.

Interior Description

The interior of the firehouse largely retains its historic floor plan and interior divisions of space (Figure 3). The first-story floor plan appears intact to the early twentieth century. In 1916, the last of the fire company's horses were sold, and in 1917 the horse drawn equipment—with the exception of one engine—was disposed of. By this point, the stables within the main apparatus room no longer served a purpose (Shaner 1983:29, 31). The second-story division of space appears to date to 1934, when interior partitions were removed, leaving one large meeting room adjacent to a kitchen (Shaner 1983:34). Similarly, many of the firehouse's historic finishes and details remain extant and remarkably well-maintained. Original trim, or close reproductions of the originals, were utilized around later door and window additions or alterations. The interior woodwork is chestnut; in spaces throughout the firehouse, as detailed below, the original tongue-and-groove beaded wainscoting is intact. The trim sets for doorways and windows throughout the firehouse have a molded pilaster finish, with the base, head, and corner blocks having a circular ornament.

The main apparatus room occupies approximately two-thirds of the firehouse's first story (Figure 14; Photograph 6). The room is accessed from the exterior through either a pedestrian door in the southeast wall or the large vehicular entrance in the southwest wall. There are four windows in the northwest wall and three windows in the southeast wall. The room has a beaded wood ceiling, which appears to date to at least the early twentieth century. The wainscoting is

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extant, but has been covered with panels (it is visible in spots where boards have been removed or cut away). The apparatus room has a maple floor, which was installed in 1968 (Shaner 1983:43). There are two doors in the northeast wall; the door leading to the pool room has four panels and a central window. The other door leads to the central stairwell, and consists of a six-panel wood door with a transom light. The original window trim and door frames are intact. A small, partitioned, office space, which may have functioned as a watch room, is located against the northeast wall. The cabinet for the 1938 Gamewell alarm system is mounted in the southeast wall (Figure 14; Photograph 7). The cabinet features hand-painted signs for alarms that were placed at various locations throughout town.

The pool room is accessed either through the door in the southwest wall, from the main apparatus room, or from the central stairwell through a six-panel wood door with a transom light, located in the southeast wall (Figure 14; Photographs 8 and 9). There are two windows in the northwest wall. All of the window and door trim is original. The pool room ceiling is metal and has a curved diamond-in-square field pattern. The room has a tongue-in-groove wood floor, with the boards laid forming a concentric square pattern over the entire floor. The pool room has a different wainscoting than the rest of the building, which consists of a tall skeleton wainscot with stained panel strips and white-painted panels. The upper portion of the wall is finished with mid-twentieth-century wallpaper. There is a small water closet in the east corner of the room.

The central stairwell is accessed from the exterior by a door in the firehouse's southeast elevation. The stairs are dog-legged with half-landings and the original balustrade is intact (Figure 14; Photographs 10 and 11). The balustrade has "fancy" turned balusters and a square newel post with a spiral motif, similar to the corner block motif in the woodwork throughout the building. The newel posts on the second-story landing are topped with rounded ornaments. The walls of the stairwell are lined with the beaded wainscot, which wraps around a curve in the wall of the tower (Figure 14; Photograph 11).

A large meeting room occupies the southwest two-thirds of the second story (Figure 14; Photographs 12 and 13). It is accessed from the central stairwell by a set of swinging wood doors, which have a transom light. A modern door in the west corner of the room provides egress to a fire escape. There are four windows in each the southeast and northwest walls. The southwest wall is dominated by the two sets of three windows in the firehouse's southwest elevation. There are five one-over-one, double-hung windows set in the northeast wall, which divides the meeting room from the kitchen. All of the window and door trim is intact, including the door frame of the emergency exit. The meeting room has a beamed ceiling and the same beaded wainscot as the central stairwell and main apparatus room. The field of the walls is finished in wallpaper. A simple picture molding wraps around the room and has narrow, vertical strips, creating the effect of a simple, panel frieze.

The kitchen is located above the pool room and is accessed from the central stairwell (Figure 14; Photographs 14 and 15). The kitchen has a mid-twentieth-century drop ceiling and linoleum tile floor. The walls have mid-twentieth-century panels with a faux-marble finish. Early twentieth-century cabinets and drawers line the southwest wall, beneath the windows to the meeting room. A large mid-twentieth-century range is located in the north corner of the room.

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There are two windows in the northwest wall and one window in the northeast wall; all have frames with original trim.

There is a small room, which may have functioned as an office or bunk room/sleeping space, located adjacent to the kitchen, which is accessed from the central stairwell. This room has a single window in its northeast wall. A bathroom is also located on the second story.

Located in the attic story directly above the office/bunk room and bathroom is a locker room, which is accessed from a narrow set of stairs leading from the second-story landing up into the tower (Figure 14; Photograph 16). The room has a low ceiling, approximately 5 feet in height. There is a small hatch door in the southeast wall that swings outwards, allowing for equipment or protective gear to be easily passed down to the second-story landing (Figure 14; Photograph 17). There are four sets of wooden cabinets, the doors of which are painted red. The intact hardware appears to date to the mid-twentieth century.

A series of narrow stairs and ladders provides access to the third story of the tower. The interior of the tower is unfinished, and appears predominantly unaltered. The woodwork lining the hose well—where the hose hung to dry—is intact, as are the hooks from which the hose hung, and the elements used to raise and lower this assembly (Figure 14; Photograph 18).

The rear engine room, located in the single-story garage at the northeast end of the firehouse, is accessed from the firehouse's central stairwell through the first-story level of the tower's hose well. The rear engine room can be accessed from the exterior by a pedestrian door in the southwest wall, or a pedestrian door or one of two vehicular entrances in the southeast wall. The room has a twentieth-century drop ceiling, a concrete floor, and simple plaster walls. Although the garage/rear engine room was constructed in 1898, at the same time as the rest of the firehouse, it does not have any of the elaborate woodwork found throughout the rest of the firehouse (Figure 14; Photograph 19).

Integrity

The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship. As detailed above, the interior of the firehouse has been meticulously well-maintained and possesses a high level of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The interior division of space is largely unaltered from the early twentieth century, and is reflective of the building's use and function as a firehouse. The most significant alteration to the main, southwest façade was the alteration of the first story from two vehicular doorways to a single vehicular entrance; however, this alteration dates to 1932 when it was necessary to accommodate newer equipment, and the façade was altered in such a way as to maintain the decorative quoins and arches of the original door surrounds. This alteration, like the alteration to the tower and replacement of windows, slightly diminishes the building's integrity of design; however, the integrity of design is adequately retained to express the building's architectural significance. Although the building no longer functions as a firehouse, its architectural details, overall design, and interior division of spaces help express the building's historic and architectural significance.

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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 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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1898-1932

Significant Dates

1932

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

J. Vincent Poley and Horace G. Ellis (Architects)
Jacob and Daniel Mowrey (Probable Builders)

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.)

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The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an example of a late nineteenth-century, Italianate, red brick type of firehouse. The firehouse features a hose tower, an essential character-defining feature of firehouses during the era of the hose tower during the late nineteenth century. The firehouse retains many of the other character-defining features of a red brick type of firehouse, including its siting on a large lot, a large apparatus room with front-facing apparatus door and side pedestrian door, the large second-story meeting room, an office/sleeping quarters on the second story, and a watch room. The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 is a locally significant firehouse that exemplifies common trends in late nineteenth-century firehouse design that were prevalent throughout southeast Pennsylvania. The period of significance for the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 is from 1898, the original construction date, through 1932, the date of the last major building alteration that the fire company made to improve the building's design in order to better function as a fire house.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

History and Significance

The vacated firehouse on the northern corner of Walnut Street and S. 3rd Avenue in Royersford Borough was erected in 1897-98 as the second home of the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1. The Company's first firehouse (a frame structure, no longer extant) had been erected on the associated parcel 15 years earlier, upon the Company's founding under the title "Humane Hook and Ladder Hose Company" in 1883 (Shaner 1983:13). That founding date is engraved on keystones above the upper-story windows on the front of the present vacated firehouse. Keystones above the building's lower-story front windows record the year when ground was broken for construction of the building (1897), rather than the year of its completion and dedication (1898).

As noted in a 1983 centennial history of the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1, the Company was the first of two fire companies organized in Royersford, the second being the Friendship Hook, Ladder and Hose Company #2 (established in January 1898 to serve the southern end of the Borough). The formation of Royersford's first fire company was triggered by the "burning of the Brook and Isett store on Main Street at Second Avenue . . . on a cold winter night in February of 1883. There was no water works in Royersford and no way of pumping water from the [Schuylkill] river two blocks away" (Shaner 1983:13). The formation of a fire company in the wake of that disaster is summarized in the centennial history as follows (with some extraneous details omitted):

The Humane Hook and Ladder Hose Co. was organized by a group of interested citizens of Royersford at a meeting held on March 23rd, 1883 at the American House by the railroad. Ambrose Royer presided and William Essick was named secretary of the meeting. Many things were discussed: how to start a fire company, how to raise

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money to equip a fire company, how to incorporate the fire company, election of officers and a host of other ideas. With the election of officers, Abram Walt became president, Warren Quillman secretary, and Setas Swartly treasurer. The new fire company was incorporated on November 17th, 1883.

. . . The Humanes had as of [May 1884] no steamer with which to do battle. . . . With the burning of the [Schuylkill River covered bridge on May 4, 1884], the Humanes realized that a steam fire engine was a must. . . . Early in 1884 a lot was purchased at the west corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street and upon the rear of this lot on September 12th they broke ground for Royersford's first fire house. John Ruskel Sr., the chief of the Humanes, had the honor of lifting the first spadeful of earth. Many willing hands spent all their spare time, some until the wee hours of the night, getting the new fire house up and under roof before the coming cold weather. Two additions were added later, a belfry on the front part of the roof of the building and a stable to the rear for the planned purchase of horses.

The first piece of apparatus to be placed in the new fire house was a ladder truck built by Frank H. Shaner, who was for many years the fire company's recording secretary. . . . [The truck] was pulled by hand; it carried ladders, helmets, boots, lanterns, coats and a horn for use by the chief, John Ruckel Sr., in shouting orders to his foreman, Charles S. Robinson and firemen. . . . This truck served well until the company was reorganized under the name of the Humane Steam Fire Engine Company on May 11th, 1885. On this date the company also voted to purchase a Button Steam fire engine and a hose carriage that could carry 1000 feet of hose. The company then would have a total of 1700 feet of hose. . . . The name "Humane" was [chosen] due to the friendship between our firemen and members of the Humane Fire Engine Co. #1 of Main and Green Streets in Norristown. . . . The cost of the first Button Steam fire engine was \$1850.00 and the hose carriage \$200.00. When the new Button fire engine arrived, horses and harnesses at first were borrowed from Leonard Mowrey. The fire company voted to purchase their own horses and harness to have in their own stable in case of a fire call. . . . On July 13th, 1885 a special meeting of the Humanes was called to plan for the dedication of their new firehouse, Button Steam Engine and hose carriage (Shaner 1983:13, 15, 17).

The Humane Steam Fire Engine Company's first firehouse—a one-story frame structure with southeastern gable end and barn-door entrance fronting on Walnut Street—was dedicated during a ceremony held on Saturday, September 5, 1885 (Shaner 1983:17). Historic fire insurance maps and photographs document the "engine house's" position in the rear (northeastern end) of a rectangular parcel comprising approximately 7,800 square feet, extending from the northern corner of Walnut Street's intersection with S. 3rd Street northeastward along Walnut Street approximately 135 feet, and having a width of approximately 58 feet (Sanborn Map Company 1888; Brunner 2014:51). The 40'x25' footprint of that original firehouse is now largely occupied by the one-story brick garage/rear engine room that was erected at the rear of the new firehouse during its construction in 1898 "to house the [fire company's] express wagons" (Shaner 1983:21).

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Following the acquisition of “a new and more powerful Button Engine” in May 1889, “a new hose truck,” and “two more large horses to pull the engine and the hose carriage,” the Humane Steam Fire Engine Company’s “little fire house became crowded and the thought of a new modern edifice was thought of and talked about. [The Company] now owned the entire [7,800-square-foot] piece of ground on the north corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street” (Shaner 1983:17, 19). The process of planning, designing, constructing, equipping, and inaugurating a “new modern edifice” is summarized in the centennial history as follows (the author appears to move in and out of contemporary descriptions, without so noting):

During late 1896, plans were being made for a new fire house to be built on the front of our lot at 3rd Avenue and Walnut Street. The building was designed by two local architects, Mr. A.C. Ellis and Mr. J. Vincent Poley. Their combined skills produced one of the finest and most modern fire houses to be found anywhere. Ground was broken on June 12th, 1897 for the new edifice and was only completed the night before dedication May 14th, 1898.

The building was constructed two stories high with a standing seam tin roof. The large bell tower rises about two stories above the main building at the east corner and contains a large bell weighing over 1600 pounds, designed to be struck by electricity. From this tower a fire could be located in all directions for miles around. This tower also serves as a hose well, open at the top and a drain pit in the cellar allowing ventilation in drying of the hose. The interior wood work is all chestnut with a high wainscoting beautifully polished. The ceilings are high and the rooms large and light. The windows are tall and of French plate glass. The floors are covered with linoleum, the lighting fixtures are a combination of gas and electric, both of which are used. In the large room on the first floor are kept the engine and hose carriages. . . . In the rear of the room each horse has its own stall, each of which has a door opening onto the engine room floor, with a single control opening all stall doors at once. The horses were trained to place themselves in the right position in front of each apparatus. Overhead hung a set of snap harnesses for each horse. With the pull on a cord, the harness dropped onto the horses’ back. The firemen then snapped on the harness and with the pull of another cord, the big front doors swing open, and the steamer and hose carriage are ready to roll. . . . [The] second floor contained a large reception room, sleeping rooms, bath rooms, and storage rooms. One such storage room was used for storing uniforms and parade equipment. A large wagon house occupies the ground to the rear of the new engine house to house the express wagons. The fire company [operates an] express hauling business in cooperation with the U.S. Express Co. and the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad in order to utilize the horses when not needed for fire service and also to put some money into the company treasury. The value of the ground and buildings is \$11,000.00 and personal property is \$7,000.00. . . .

The big day for dedicating our new fire house and hose carriage was now just around the corner. The place was humming and activity was everywhere, get the apparatus cleaned and shined, clean and polish the engine house and reception room

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floors and windows; in short, activity was everywhere. Now May 14, 1898 was dawning, with overcast skies, but by 8 a.m. the sun began to shine and we were favored with a wonderful day. . . . [description of the Humane Steam Fire Engine Company's "second and greatest parade in their short life," with a dozen fire companies marching, finishing at the new firehouse.] With time for everyone to find food and refreshment, the addresses began at 3 p.m. at our fire house with the Honorable J. P. Mauger and Mr. E. L. Hallman, Esquire giving the main speeches. With president Geisinger, Vice President Moore and other officers having made remarks, the dedication was concluded to get ready for an evening of band concerts. Many of the visiting bands added their special music during the evening. . . . Visiting firemen pronounced our engine house one of the finest and most modern in the Schuylkill Valley and at a cost of only \$8000 (Shaner 1983:19, 21, 23).

The assertion in the foregoing account that the 1898 firehouse "was designed by two local architects, Mr. A.C. Ellis and Mr. J. Vincent Poley," is problematic in that no local architect with a name or initials matching "A.C. Ellis" is identifiable through a search of contemporary census records, business directories, and newspaper reports. The confusion is compounded later in the centennial history through an assertion that architect J. Vincent Poley's collaborator was "Mrs. A.G. Ellis" (Shaner 1983:33). It seems likely that Poley's collaborator was, in fact, Horace G. Ellis, a prominent architect, engineer, and municipal surveyor headquartered across the Schuylkill River in Spring City (often described as Royersford's "sister borough" in Chester County). Born five miles upriver from Spring City in July 1856, Ellis had served by 1896 as Borough Surveyor for Spring City, Royersford, and Phoenixville (Anonymous 2008:n.p.). He had just turned 41 when he died in Spring City on July 19, 1897 (*Engineering Record* 1897:157). His entry in Chester County's *Death Register* indicates that he died from pneumonia (inaccurately transcribed as "phoreumonia") after a nine-week illness (Jones 2010:n.p.). A notice published in Philadelphia's *Inquirer* described Ellis as "surveyor of the borough of Spring City and Royersford," and "one of the most prominent citizens in this part of the country" (*Philadelphia Inquirer* 1897:2). Insofar as Ellis' death occurred a month after ground was broken for the new firehouse in Royersford on June 12, 1897, he lived just long enough to have been involved in the building's design. His lingering illness and/or untimely death might have compelled the engagement of a second designer and construction supervisor: J. Vincent Poley.

John Vincent Poley was eight years younger than Horace Ellis, and much less experienced as an architect. His birth and early career were recounted as follows in a 1936 obituary:

[J. Vincent Poley] was born near Trappe [in Upper Providence Township, Montgomery County on] April 10, 1864, son of the late Anthony Poley, and he came to Royersford over 40 years ago [i.e., before 1896]. His [carpenter] father drew plans for a number of local establishments.

Mr. Poley's first venture in Royersford was a grocery store on 2nd Avenue, near Green Street, now owned by H.G. Godshall. It was on the second floor of this

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building, then known as Poley's Hall, that the Friendship Fire Company [Royersford's second fire company] was organized in 1897 [actually January 1898], with Mr. Poley as the first treasurer, which office he held for a number of years. He also became a member of Humane Fire [Engine] Company.

He taught school for a number of years in Upper Providence Township. He was a graduate of a number of colleges, including West Chester State Teachers College, then Normal School, Ursinus College, Franklin and Marshall and Albright colleges, and received a degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

He was a member of Royersford School Board in 1898 and also served later as president of Town Council. He was returned to the school board by the voters in later years and was President for several terms 10 years ago.

Mr. Poley was also one of the first local citizens to become interested in the former Swarthmore Chautauqua, which gave a week of entertainment and instruction here each year a number of years ago (*The Mercury* 1936:8).

Poley was memorialized in the centennial history as "one of the founders of both of our fire companies [Fire Engine Company No. 1 and Friendship Hook, Ladder and Hose Company]. He was the first treasurer of the [latter company]. He and Mr. Allen Keeley, both surveyors, laid out and surveyed most of early Royersford, Mr. Keeley the upper portion and Mr. Poley the lower portion. Mr. Poley operated a grocery store that became the Harvey Godshall store on 2nd Avenue" (Shaner 1983:33).

It is unclear where J. Vincent Poley received his architectural and surveying training, nor how he qualified to serve as a contributing architect on the Humane Fire Engine Company's firehouse project in 1897. His only recorded post-high school education as of that year was teacher training received at West Chester State Normal School in the mid-1880s (West Chester State Normal School 1885:20). He next received a Bachelor of Philosophy degree from Albright College in 1904 (Department of Public Instruction and State Teachers' Association 1905:557). He would go on to earn a Master of Arts degree from Franklin and Marshall College in 1916, a Master of Science Degree from Taylor University in 1917, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1920 (Maxwell 1922:424). Though his early training prepared him for a teaching career, by June 1900 he was primarily occupied as an architect, as recorded on Royersford census schedules in that month (United States Bureau of the Census 1900).

The centennial history makes another confusing claim in asserting that Poley and Ellis "designed and supervised the building of our present firehouse by Daniel Mowrey and Sons of Royersford" (Shaner 1983:33). Carpenter Daniel Mowrey, born in Royersford in February 1876, had just turned 21 when ground was broken for new Humane Fire Engine Company firehouse in June 1897 (Pennsylvania Department of Health 1957:n.p.). He was not yet married, and he had no sons (United States Bureau of the Census 1900). It is much more likely that Mowrey helped construct the firehouse under the direction of his father, German immigrant Jacob Mowrey (1847-1924), a noted Royersford carpenter-contractor during late nineteenth and early twentieth

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centuries (United States Bureau of the Census 1880, 1900, 1910; Pennsylvania Department of Health 1924:n.p.). In his contracting business, Jacob was usually assisted by his sons Daniel and William L. (1881-1962) (Pennsylvania Department of Health 1962:n.p.). Daniel and William were still part of their father's household in 1900, and both young men were identified as carpenters (United States Bureau of the Census 1900).

The centennial history mentioned no significant additions or alterations to the firehouse property during the period 1898-1910, nor were any changes noted on fire insurance maps published in April 1902 and May 1909 (Sanborn Map Company 1902, 1909). A "ladies auxiliary was organized on March 28th, 1910 for the purpose of assisting the firemen not only at festivals and banquets but financially as well." The Auxiliary's charter president was J. Vincent Poley's wife, Minnie, who would go on to hold the position "for the first 25 years." To accommodate the Auxiliary's activities within the firehouse, "the pool table was moved from the second floor to the first floor to make room for a kitchen." The Auxiliary supplied the kitchen with "enough equipment to take care of about 150 persons" (Shaner 1983:27).

Noteworthy additions and alterations to the firehouse property after 1910, as well as some functional rearrangements, were recorded in the centennial history as follows (selections are formatted for clarity and consistency):

- **1912:** "The organization of a Drill Corps in 1912 with enough equipment to uniform 60 men for the purpose of marching in parades was formed. . . . Also in 1912 a new steam heater for the engine house was purchased from the Buckwalter Stove Co. model #730 and 2175 feet of radiation for \$353" (Shaner 1983:27).
- **1916:** "On February 27, 1916, the rebuilt Pierce Arrow fire apparatus was placed in the engine house. . . ; the horses and express wagons were sold for \$280, the harness and sled for \$250 on Nov. 6, 1916" (Shaner 1983:29).
- **1916-18:** During "the war years, . . . all of Royersford put forth a maximum effort to the war task. The Humane Fire Co. and their fire house played an important part in that endeavor. Many meetings were held in the firehouse. Meetings of the Red Cross, the fire Liberty Loan driver, the war chest campaign, the savings stamp drive, the Salvation Army Drive were at times held in the fire house. . . . Joseph A. Buckwalter equipped at his own expense the upstairs room of the Humane Fire Company so that sewing machines could be operated electrically to produce many articles of clothing for the Red Cross also the Belgian and French Relief projects. . . During 1917 all horse drawn equipment was disposed of except the Button Steam Fire Engine" (Shaner 1983:31).
- **1932:** "With the purchase of a Mack City Service Ladder truck from the Mack Company in Allentown [in August 1928] a new problem developed, the small front doors of the firehouse were too narrow to permit easy backing in of either piece of apparatus. In December, 1932 it was voted to replace the two small doors with one large overhead door" (Shaner 1983:31, 33).
- **1933-34:** "The year 1934 saw more changes to the firehouse. On the second floor all partitions were removed, making one large room. Ceiling beams and new covering for the

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floor were added. The year 1935 saw the new banquet tables and chairs and other improvements to the large upstairs room costing \$1036.72” (Shaner 1983:33).

- **1938:** “In this year meetings were held in regards to the setting up of a new and better fire alarm system for Royersford. Several fire alarm manufacturers presented their propositions to the committee. The large bell in the bell tower was taken down and sold, to the highest bidder for \$300. A Gamewell fire alarm was accepted and installed with the siren committee also given the power to purchase a transmitter, code wheels and other necessary equipment to suit conditions in Royersford. The total cost of the project was \$921.60. The Gamewell system consists of a large air compressor in the cellar of the fire house, an air horn up in the top of the hose tower and a control cabinet mounted on the wall of the apparatus room” (Shaner 1983:35).
- **1939:** “In June of 1939 the lot adjoining the fire house property on the Main Street side was purchased from the I.N. Buckwalter Estate for \$1006.70. . . . A motion was made and carried that Win. Bisbing be donated \$3.00 for his services at Norristown for the exemptions from taxes on the lot adjoining the firehouse. At the September meeting a motion was made and carried that the trustees purchase 30 tons of coal for the cellar heater”
- **1941-45:** “During the World War II years, the fire house became an air raid shelter, a first aid station, telephone headquarters for civil defense, a blood donor center, a surgical dressing course center, a Red Cross Center and meeting place, and many other functions” (Shaner 1983:37).
- **1947:** “At the January 1947 meeting it was reported that another one of the old pieces of equipment, the ice water barrel, was being retired in favor of a new electric water cooler. . . . 1947 brought another innovation to the firehouse, a television. It was placed in the meeting room between the two front windows on a special shelf” (Shaner 1983:37).
- **1948:** “At the November 1948 meeting the discussions centered on the condition of the engine room and pool rooms. With a committee appointed and a motion passed it was decided to go ahead with the renovation and painting of each room, the engine room to cost \$1659 and the pool room \$130” (Shaner 1983:37).
- **1953:** “After much discussion and reports of falling slate and an inspection of the woodwork, the top of the bell tower was taken down on August 25, 1953. The tower [had] withstood the worst of weather for 55 years. On this day this writer was standing across Walnut Street . . . talking to Wm. Mowrey. He related when the fire house was built by his [grand]father [Jacob] Mowrey with his sons William and Daniel, it took about two weeks to put the tower in place, and now in about two hours it has been taken down” (Shaner 1983:39).
- **1954:** “After some discussion at the September [1954] meeting of the fire company it was voted to convert the cellar heater from coal to oil heat thus providing automatic and more uniform heat for the firehouse. Another improvement added in 1954 was both fire companies joining the Montgomery County Radio System. A Federal Radio license was applied for and received to operate a base radio station in our firehouse. The cost of the two-way radio equipment was in excess of \$2500” (Shaner 1983:39, 41).
- **1957:** “With only one way in or out of the second floor meeting room, which is up or down the stairs, it was agreed [during a January 1957 meeting] that a need for a fire escape was most urgent. It was agreed to install the needed fire escape costing \$3000, plus a new door and its installation” (Shaner 1983:41).

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- **1961:** “A new 200 amp electrical service and necessary wiring was installed in the firehouse during 1961” (Shaner 1983:43).
- **1968:** “The Humanes put down a new maple one-inch thick floor in the front engine room” (Shaner 1983:43).
- **1971:** “At the September 27, 1971 meeting the trustees reported that the Royersford Redevelopment Authority had purchased our lot next to the firehouse for \$3,999. The company wanted an agreement that should the authority not succeed, the company could buy back the lot for the same price” (Shaner 1983:45).
- **1979:** “With heating oil costing 80 cents per gallon the company voted at the October 1979 meeting to have storm windows installed on all windows and to weather strip all doors at a cost of \$21,000. It was estimated that the storm windows and weather stripping would pay for themselves in five years, due to the savings of heating oil and thus making the firehouse more comfortable and less drafty in winter” (Shaner 1983:49, 51).

Early in 1983, as the centennial of the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1’s founding approached, Company members:

. . . embarked on yet another project: refacing of the entire fire station beginning on April 1. We started an intensive remodeling project that would only be fitting for an 85-year-old building, and a nice showing for our 100th birthday. During the eight weeks that followed one could not pass Third and Walnut without seeing members working diligently into the evening hours as lights would be lit all over the building. The following is work that was carried out mutually by the members and contractors in preparation of our 100th birthday:

- Complete inside and outside repainting
- Complete engine, hall and pool room floor refinishing
- New drop ceiling on second floor stairwell
- Two new electric door openers presented by the Ladies Auxiliary for rear engine room
- Complete new shrubbery and flower beds
- New electrically operated door for front engine room
- New light fixtures in front engine room and meeting room
- New floor in hose tower
- New vinyl floors in meeting room and new stair treads” (Shaner 1983:51, 53).
- A “gala parade and festivities” were held at and around the firehouse on June 11, 1983 (Shaner 1983:53).

As recounted in a history of the Royersford Fire Department, early in 2011, “members of the Humane Steam Fire Engine Company and Friendship Hook, Ladder and Hose Company [stationed at 269 Green Street, Royersford] determined it was in the best interest of the community to begin a consolidation process. . . . With nine pieces of apparatus and two stations, it was a juggling act, to say the least. Certain apparatus would only fit in certain stations, so a comprehensive response procedure was worked out to allow us to utilize both stations. On

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February 1st, 2011 the fire operations were consolidated. Station numbers 84 (Humane) and Station's 85 (Friendship) were retired in favor of the new Royersford Fire Department station number 98. . . . However, the consolidation was far from over. . . . Administrative and financial consolidation would take several more months. . . . Both companies approved the incorporation of a new entity to be titled the Royersford Fire Department. The newly formed entity would take ownership of the assets of both consolidating organizations. Royersford Fire Department was formally incorporated on July 11th, 2011. . . . Beginning in 2013 exploratory efforts began to determine the best final home for the Royersford Fire Department. . . . It was ultimately decided that a new station house would be built at 3rd Avenue and Walnut Street on the property across the street from the Humane station. This property [had been] acquired in [1984] by the Humane with the intention of building a new station house. . . . In January 2014 a formal building committee was established to oversee the project to build a station house at 3rd Avenue and Walnut Street. . . . On April 9th, 2016 the Royersford Fire Department officially broke ground on their new station house. Construction began right away and the building was completed 10 months later. The building was officially turned over to the Royersford Fire Department on January 30, 2017" (Royersford Fire Department 2018:n.p.).

The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 ("formerly known as Humane Hook and Ladder Hose Co.") conveyed the vacated 1898 firehouse and associated 12,775-square-foot parcel (Montgomery County Parcel 19-00-04544-00-9) to the Royersford Fire Department by a deed dated November 15, 2014 (Montgomery County Deed Book 5936:239). By a deed dated January 12, 2018, the Royersford Fire Department conveyed the property to the current owner, Spring Mountain Brewing Company LLC, of Abington, Pennsylvania (Montgomery County Deed Book 6077:649).

Architectural Significance

The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 is exemplary of common trends in late nineteenth-century firehouse design. The literature on firehouses and fire stations identifies two principle types of firehouses constructed throughout American cities and towns during the latter half of the nineteenth century: the "storefront" type and the red brick type. These types are distinct from an individual building's architectural style; firehouses of both types were constructed in a wide array of popular architectural styles of the late nineteenth century. Wilson summarizes the character-defining features of the red brick style of fire station: "Based on the literature, a Red Brick Fire Station should be a large brick building, which sits on a large lot, has a prominent tower, large arched doors, and architectural detail. Inside the stations should be a large apparatus room, meeting room, offices, living quarters, sliding poles, and an area that would have been used as a hayloft" (Wilson 2015:108). Wilson further details that customarily, the apparatus door would be in the front of the building, a pedestrian entrance either in the front or side, the interior would have a watch room, and office or sleeping quarters on the second story, as well as meeting rooms (Wilson 2015:109, 214). The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 retains many of these identified character-defining features, such as the prominent tower, front-facing apparatus door and side pedestrian door, architectural detail, and interior spaces such as the large apparatus room, the large meeting room, office space and a watch room.

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Firehouses are a quintessential example of the type of building where form closely follows function, as Jamison et al. describe: “The primary influences in firehouse design have been equipment and function. The role of the firehouse as a shelter for the apparatus of the firefighters has been a major determinant” (Jamison et al. 2006:19). The use of towers in firehouses is an example of trends in firehouse architecture closely reflecting functional requirements. Although towers were utilized as look-out towers, their main function was related to the care and preservation of hoses:

Towers gave the volunteer companies more ammunition for their architectural war. The principal reason for adding a tower to a fire station was not for a watchpost—which the city would maintain at central locations—but to provide a place to hang up hose to drain and dry. Leather hose rotted if not properly cared for, and firemen tried various ways to preserve it. . . The most common system was to stretch the hose out on wooden racks, as Boston firemen did in the basement of the station on Pemberton Hill in the 1820s. Since so few records survive, it is hard to tell where or when the idea of hanging hose vertically originated, but some of the cupolas on fire stations built in the 1840s in St. Louis and Philadelphia may have been used for that purpose. By the [eighteen] fifties, towers equipped with pulleys, ropes, and hanging hooks were regular features at the back of buildings like the house of the United States Hose Company in Philadelphia (Zurier 1982:65).

The incorporation of towers into firehouse design in the late nineteenth century was widespread, to the extent that a Multiple Property Documentation Form prepared for Nevada identifies the period from 1860 to 1920 as the era of the “Steam Engine and Hose Tower Style” (Bertolini 2017:46). (The Nevada context ostensibly uses this distinction versus the “red brick type” due to the use of various other building materials in that particular state, as opposed to the more common use of brick in other geographic areas.) Similarly, the Multiple Property Documentation Form for Firehouses in Washington D.C. declares hose towers to be “the ubiquitous symbol of the American firehouse,” and states that “In D.C. the hose towers are integral parts of the firehouse buildings and are significant elements of the firehouse” (Beck 2006:18-19).

The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 is architecturally significant as an example of a red brick type of firehouse constructed in the late nineteenth century. The firehouse features a hose tower, an essential character-defining feature of firehouses during the era of the hose tower during the late nineteenth century. The firehouse retains many of the other character-defining features of a red brick type of firehouse, as detailed above, including its siting on a large lot, a large apparatus room with front-facing apparatus door and side pedestrian door, the large second-story meeting room, an office/sleeping quarters on the second story, and a watch room. The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 retains the integrity necessary to express this architectural significance.

Comparable Regional Firehouses

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Research about comparable regional examples of other firehouses was undertaken to elucidate the common trends in late nineteenth-century firehouse design as demonstrated by the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1. There are comparable firehouses located in cities and towns throughout the United States. For the purposes of this study, research focused on Pennsylvania examples, with particular focus on southeast Pennsylvania and Montgomery County. Initial research utilized the Pennsylvania Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (CRGIS) to identify firehouses that have been listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, as well as firehouses that have been inventoried and mapped in the system, often identified within historic resource surveys, but have not formally been evaluated for National Register eligibility. National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Forms and Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Forms for listed and eligible historic districts were consulted to identify contributing firehouses located within historic districts. Internet research was utilized to identify additional firehouses in southeast Pennsylvania that have not been mapped in CRGIS. Google Earth proved a particularly useful tool for research, allowing for identification of active firehouses; the Google Earth street view tool was utilized to identify architecturally similar examples in Montgomery, Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, Bucks, and Berks Counties. Site visits were conducted to photograph the most relevant comparable firehouses identified during research.

There are nine firehouses in Pennsylvania that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Three of these firehouses are not comparable to the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 as they are examples of other types of firehouses from different historic periods. Three of the listed firehouses are located in Reading and date to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The Keystone Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 (PA SHPO Key No. 080319) at 200 North Penn Street in Reading, Berks County, is a red brick firehouse that features Queen Anne and Italianate architectural details, which was constructed in the 1880s. The firehouse features a prominent belfry; however, it is unclear from its National Register Inventory-Nomination form whether the building historically featured a hose tower, or if it did, whether the hose tower is extant (Thomas 1985). The Liberty Fire Company No. 5 (PA SHPO Key No. 064455) at 501 South 5th Street in Reading, Berks County, was constructed in 1876 and is Italianate in style. The firehouse's north façade is red brick; its west façade was originally serpentine, but was replaced in 1929 with buff colored brick. Although the firehouse is similar in date, size, architectural style, and materials to the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1, the building does not have a hose tower (Lefevre and Klick 1984). The Hampden Firehouse (PA SHPO Key No. 079013) at 1101 Greenwich Street in Reading, Berks County, was constructed in 1887 and is similar in size, massing, and architectural style to the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1; however, the firehouse does not have an extant hose tower (it is unclear whether the building featured a hose tower at any point in its past) (City of Reading 1981a). The three remaining National Register-listed firehouses in Pennsylvania are more relevant comparable examples to the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1. The Washington Hose and Steam Fire Engine Company, No. 1 (PA SHPO Key No. 000581) (Figure 17) located at 15 West Hector Street in Conhohocken, Montgomery County, was constructed in 1878, is Italianate in style, and features a prominent square hose tower with a wooden belfry (Collins and McMurray 1975). The firehouse is three bays wide and three stories in height, thus larger than the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1. The Camp Curtin Fire Station (PA SHPO Key No. 000502) (Figure 18) is located at 2504 N. 6th

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Street in Harrisburg, Dauphin County, and is another example of a red brick firehouse that is Italianate in style. The firehouse's hose tower is centered in its front façade and features a square, hipped-roof belfry. The firehouse was constructed in 1910, slightly later than the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 (Behney and Namioka 1981). Finally, the Laurel-Rex Fire Company House (PA SHPO Key No. 001055) (Figure 19) is located at 41 South Duke Street in York, York County, and is a two-story, red brick Italianate firehouse constructed in 1878. The firehouse features two bell towers: a faux bell tower is located at its northwest corner, and a mansard-roofed belfry rises above the prominent hose tower located at its southwest corner. The Laurel-Rex Fire Company House (Key No. 001055) is a more elaborate example of a red brick firehouse with hose tower than the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1, but is still a relevant comparable firehouse.

The three most relevant examples of firehouses that are comparable to the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 identified in the research for this project are located in Montgomery County and are presented in Figures 20, 21, and 22. Each of these examples is a contributing resource to a National Register-listed historic district. None of these examples are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, nor have any been determined individually National Register eligible. A detailed discussion of each of these firehouses is presented below.

The Fairmount Fire Company No. 2 firehouse is located at 401 West Main Street in Norristown, Montgomery County, and is a contributing resource to the West Norristown Historic District (PA SHPO Key No. 064375), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 23, 1984 (Ott, Wolff and Webster 1984b) (Figure 20). The Fairmount Fire Company No. 2 firehouse is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of West Main Street and Astor Street. The building was dedicated on May 1, 1880 and continues to function as a firehouse, currently housing two apparatus and a marine unit (Norristown Fire Department 2018). Its 1880 construction date places the Fairmount Fire Company No. 2 firehouse within the late nineteenth-century era of the red brick and hose tower firehouse. The Fairmount Fire Company No. 2 firehouse is comparable to the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 for a variety of reasons, including its Italianate architectural style, the use of red brick as the predominant building material, its siting on a corner lot with its apparatus room entrance located in the narrower street-facing elevation, the presence of a hose tower with a belfry, and its overall massing. The Fairmount Fire Company No. 2 firehouse is three stories in height, its Main Street elevation is three bays wide, its Astor Street elevation in seven bays wide, and it has a two-bay garage on its northeast end, facing onto Astor Street. The firehouse's hose tower is located at the northeast end of the apparatus room, and appears to be accessible internally. The hose tower is capped with an octagonal belfry, in which a bell remains extant. An undated historic photograph from the mid-twentieth century shows the original Main Street elevation had two arched vehicular doorways leading to the apparatus room (Figure 20); these were converted to a single, centered garage door, similar to the alteration of the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1. The firehouse retains a high level of integrity of materials and design; alterations include modern windows, in addition to the replacement apparatus door. Interior alterations in terms of division of space and architectural finishes are unknown.

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Another comparable firehouse in Montgomery County is the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 firehouse, which is also located in Norristown (Figure 21). The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 firehouse is located at 129 East Main Street, on the northwest corner of the intersection of East Main Street and Green Street. The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 firehouse is a contributing resource to the Central Norristown Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 23, 1984 (Ott, Wolff and Webster 1984a). The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 firehouse in Norristown is not mapped in CRGIS and does not have a Key Number, thus it is assumed that the building has not been evaluated individually for National Register eligibility. The present Norristown Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 firehouse was commissioned in 1887 and was dedicated on May 12, 1888 (Five Saints Distilling 2018). The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 firehouse closed its doors in 2013 after 161 years of serving Norristown (Norristown Fire Department 2018). The firehouse is presently adaptively reused as a distillery, Five Saints Distilling. The Norristown Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 firehouse is three stories in height; its Main Street elevation is two bays wide, with two doors leading to the main apparatus room. The Green Street elevation is five bays wide, and like both the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 in Royersford and its neighboring Fairmount Fire Company No. 2 firehouse in Norristown, there is a two-bay garage located on its northeast end. The firehouse's hose tower is located at the northwest corner of the main building, at the junction of the main building and the rear garage. A pedestrian door in the Green Street elevation leads to a staircase, which runs along the hose tower; the hose tower itself is accessed internally. The tower has a flat roof and does not appear to have historically had a belfry. The Humane Fire Company No. 1 firehouse in Norristown is comparable to the Humane Fire Company No. 1 in Royersford as it is a red brick firehouse with a hose tower constructed during the same time period that is also Italianate in style. The firehouse retains two vehicular doors in the Main Street elevation, which open into the main apparatus room; while the two entrances and their historic door surrounds are intact, the doors themselves have been replaced with modern garage doors. The firehouse retains a high level of integrity of materials and design on the exterior. The adaptive reuse of the building has resulted in significant alterations to division of space of the ground floor; although some interior architectural features, such as doors and woodwork in the stairwell, are intact. The degree to which interior spaces have been altered and the presence of original interior architectural features in the upper stories is unknown.

A third comparable firehouse located in Montgomery County is the Phillies Fire Company firehouse at 240 Chestnut Street in Pottstown (Figure 22). The Phillies Fire Company firehouse is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Chestnut Street and North Penn Street, and continues to operate as a firehouse. The firehouse is a contributing resource to the Old Pottstown Historic District (PA SHPO Key No. 064416), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 5, 1985 (the firehouse is included in the inventory as the "Philadelphia Steam Fire Engine Company firehouse") (Hylton 1985). The Phillies Fire Company firehouse does not appear to have a Key Number, nor is it mapped in CRGIS; the building does not appear to have been evaluated individually for National Register eligibility. The Phillies Fire Company firehouse was constructed in 1880 (Hylton 1985). The firehouse was designed and constructed by a committee comprised of members of the fire company, appointed by the trustees of the fire company; masonry and brickwork was supervised by Thomas L.

Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1
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Yergey and carpentry work was managed and supervised by Frank G. Feley. The firehouse was dedicated on June 12, 1880 (Phillies Fire Company 2015). The Phillies Fire Company firehouse is Italianate in style. The firehouse's massing and layout is very similar to that of the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 in Royersford: it is two stories in height, and sited on a corner lot, with the vehicular entrance to the apparatus room in its narrower Chestnut Street-facing north elevation. The firehouse originally had two arched doors leading in the Chestnut Street elevation; however, these doors were replaced with one rectangular garage door. The firehouse's west elevation, facing North Penn Street, is six bays wide and is extremely similar to that of the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 in Royersford, with vertically aligned arched windows in the first and second stories, centered between brick pilasters. The building has a low, hipped roof, unlike the cross gables of the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1. The cornice is also very similar to that of the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1, and has large paired modillions, interspersed with smaller brackets. The square hose tower is centered at the rear elevation of the building and currently has a hipped roof; a ca. 1920 photograph depicts that the tower was originally two stories taller, with a belfry, and was capped with an elaborate mansard roof (Figure 22). The firehouse also had an elaborate parapet on its north, Chestnut Street façade, which is no longer extant. Other alterations to the exterior of the Phillies Fire Company firehouse include the infilling of three windows and one pedestrian door in the west, North Penn Street, elevation. Based on photographs and information on the fire company's website, the second story functions as a social room and bar, and has been extensively altered (Phillies Fire Company 2015). The exterior of the Phillies Fire Company firehouse retains a moderate level of integrity of design and materials; however, the interior appears to have been altered to the extent that it may no longer retain much of its original architectural finishes, nor its historic floor plan.

The research presented above establishes that the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 exemplifies common trends in late nineteenth-century firehouse design that were prevalent throughout southeast Pennsylvania. The majority of the examples presented above are located within major urban areas and county seats, such as Philadelphia, Reading, Norristown, and Harrisburg. The Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1, however, is an example of this type of firehouse that is located in a smaller downtown, and not in a major metropolitan area. The interior of the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 retains a high level of integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. Its interior architectural finishes have been meticulously maintained to a degree that is not evident in many of the other comparable firehouses discussed above. The interior division of space is intact from the early twentieth century and original woodwork is present throughout the building. Many of the early fire company-related technological features remain extant, such as the Gamewell alarm system. The hose tower is an integral character-defining feature of firehouses of this period. The firehouse's hose tower is intact, including the interior woodwork and the pulley and hook system, which was used to hang the hoses to dry. In comparison to many of the examples described above, the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 is more representative of firehouses of this period.

Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1
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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): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.183226 | Longitude: -75.539871 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The proposed National Register boundary for the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 was prepared in accordance with guidelines set forth in the *National Register Bulletin*: "Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties" (Seifert et al. 1997). The boundary follows the tax parcel property line as follows: beginning at the point approximately 13 feet from the outside of the curb of Walnut Street and approximately 15 feet from the outside of the curb of South 3rd

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Avenue at the north corner of Walnut Street and South 3rd Avenue, the boundary runs for approximately 134.7 feet northeast, then pivots 90 degrees and continues for approximately 68 feet northwest, then pivots 90 degrees and continues for approximately 119.4 feet southwest, then pivots 90 degrees once more and continues for approximately 64.2 feet southeast until it returns to its point of origin.

The boundary as described above is indicated on the attached figure (Figure 1; USGS 1983).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary encompasses the entire tax parcel on which the firehouse sits. The tax parcel is identified by Montgomery County tax records as 19-00-04544-00-9.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Maureen McDougall/Architectural Historian and Phil Ruth/Historian
organization: CHRS, Inc.
street & number: 395 North Cannon Avenue
city or town: Lansdale state: PA zip code: 19446
e-mail mmcdougall@chrsinc.com
telephone: (215) 699-8006
date: November 21, 2018

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.)

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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: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1

City or Vicinity: Royersford Borough

County: Montgomery County State: PA

Photographer: Maureen McDougall

Date Photographed: February 23, 2018

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

1 of 19 View facing northeast, showing the southwest elevation of the firehouse.

2 of 19 View facing north-northwest, showing the southeast elevation of the firehouse.

3 of 19 View facing west-southwest, showing the southeast and northeast elevations of the firehouse.

4 of 19 View facing southeast, showing the northwest elevation of the firehouse.

5 of 19 Detail view of the date inscriptions in the keystones of the limestone arches over the first-story garage door and second-story windows in the firehouse's southwest façade.

6 of 19 View facing northeast, showing the main apparatus room on the first floor.

7 of 19 View facing southeast, showing the 1938 Gamewell alarm system cabinet, which is mounted in the southeast wall of the main apparatus room on the first floor.

8 of 19 View facing north, showing the pool room on the first floor.

9 of 19 View facing south, showing the pool room on the first floor.

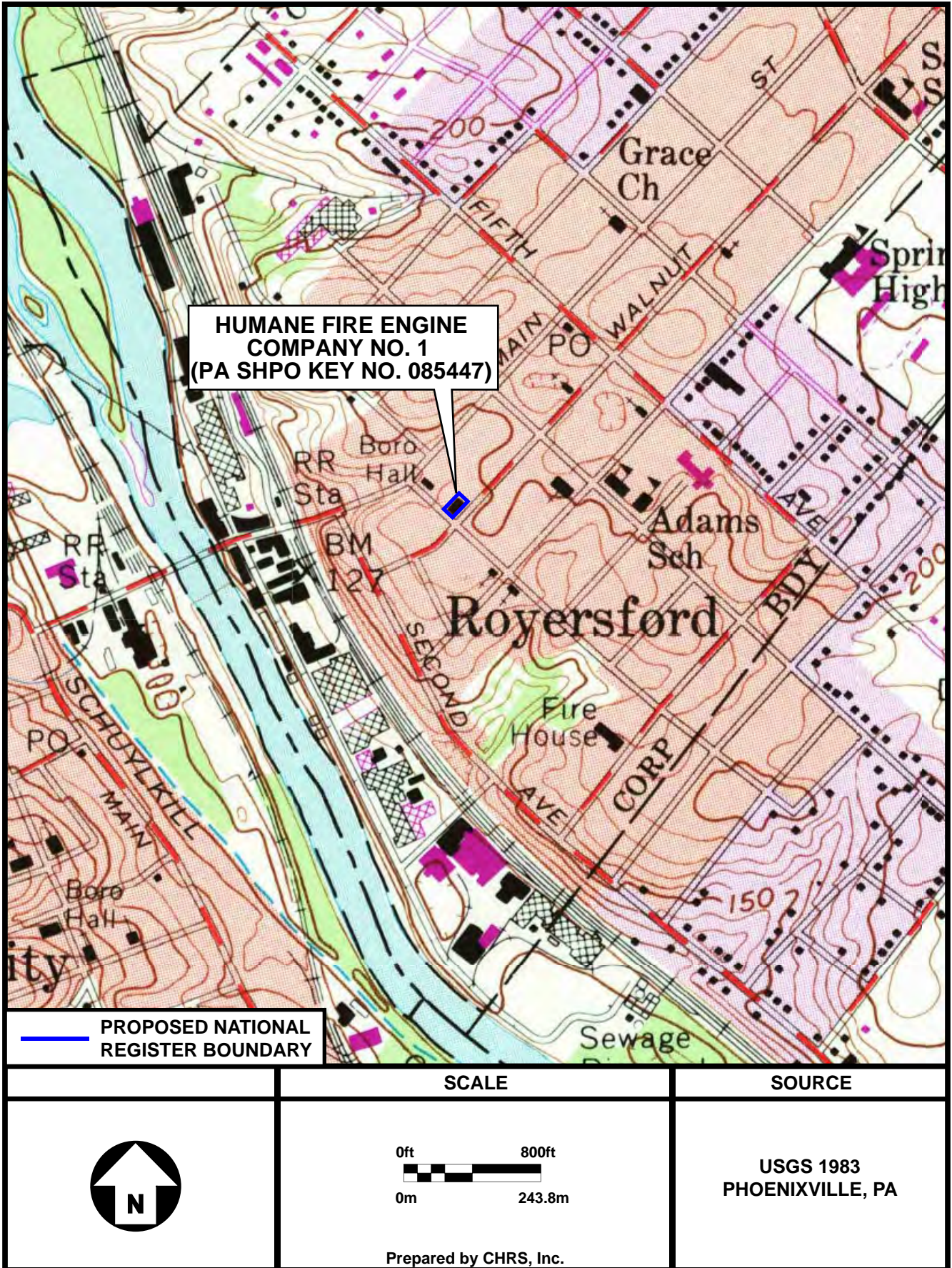
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- 10 of 19 View facing northwest, showing the newel post on the first story.
- 11 of 19 View facing northeast, showing the landing between the first and second story.
- 12 of 19 View facing south, showing the meeting room.
- 13 of 19 View facing northeast, showing the meeting room.
- 14 of 19 View facing south, showing the kitchen.
- 15 of 19 View facing north, showing the kitchen.
- 16 of 19 View facing west-southwest, showing the locker room.
- 17 of 19 View facing west-northwest, showing the small door allowing equipment and gear to be handed down from the locker room to the second-story hall.
- 18 of 19 View facing north, showing the extant hose hooks and hose drying system in the tower.
- 19 of 19 View facing west-northwest, showing the rear engine room.

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.



**Figure 1: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1
(PA SHPO Key No. 085447) - Resource Location Map**



Figure 16: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 - 2016

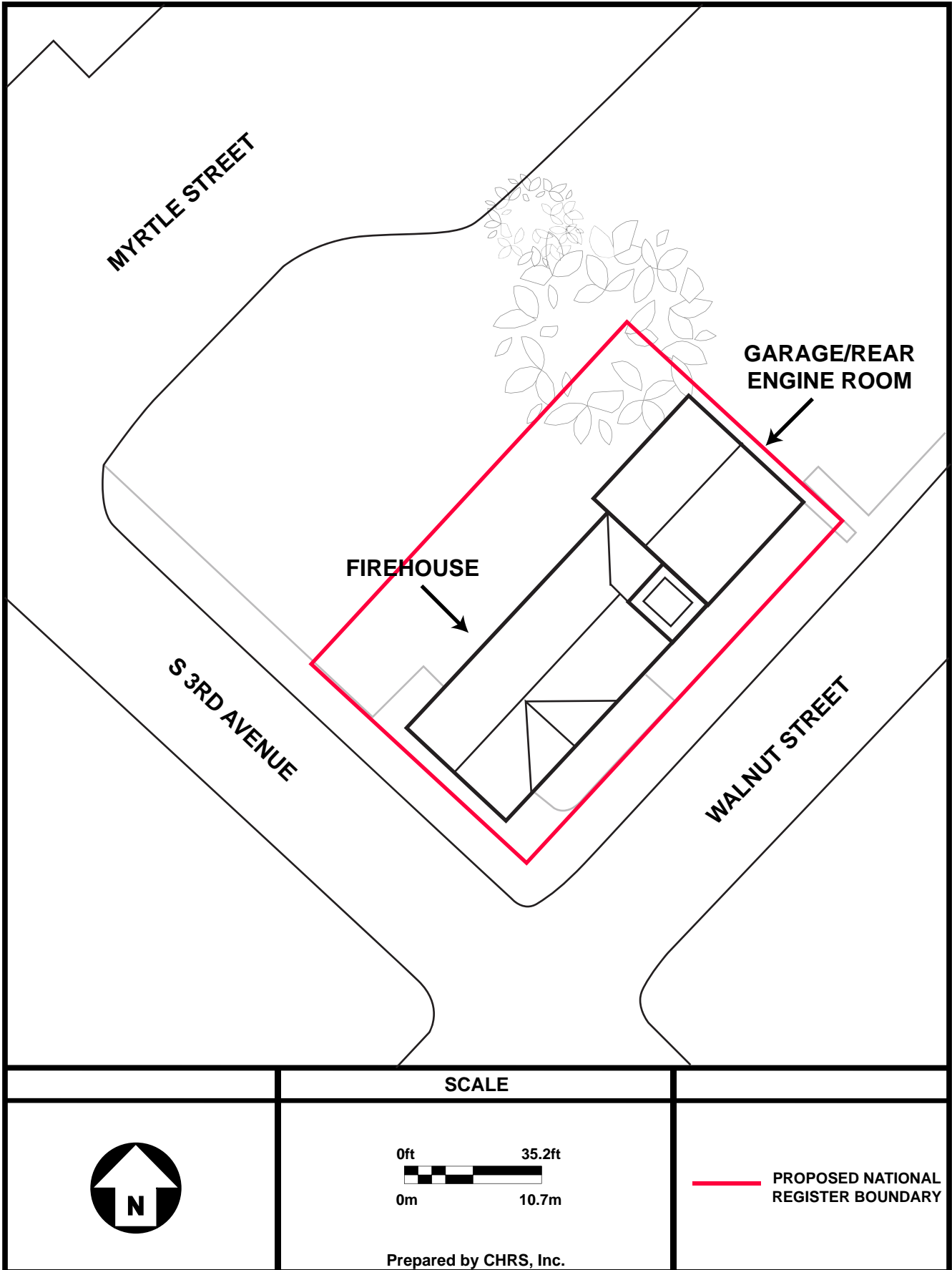


Figure 2: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 Site Plan

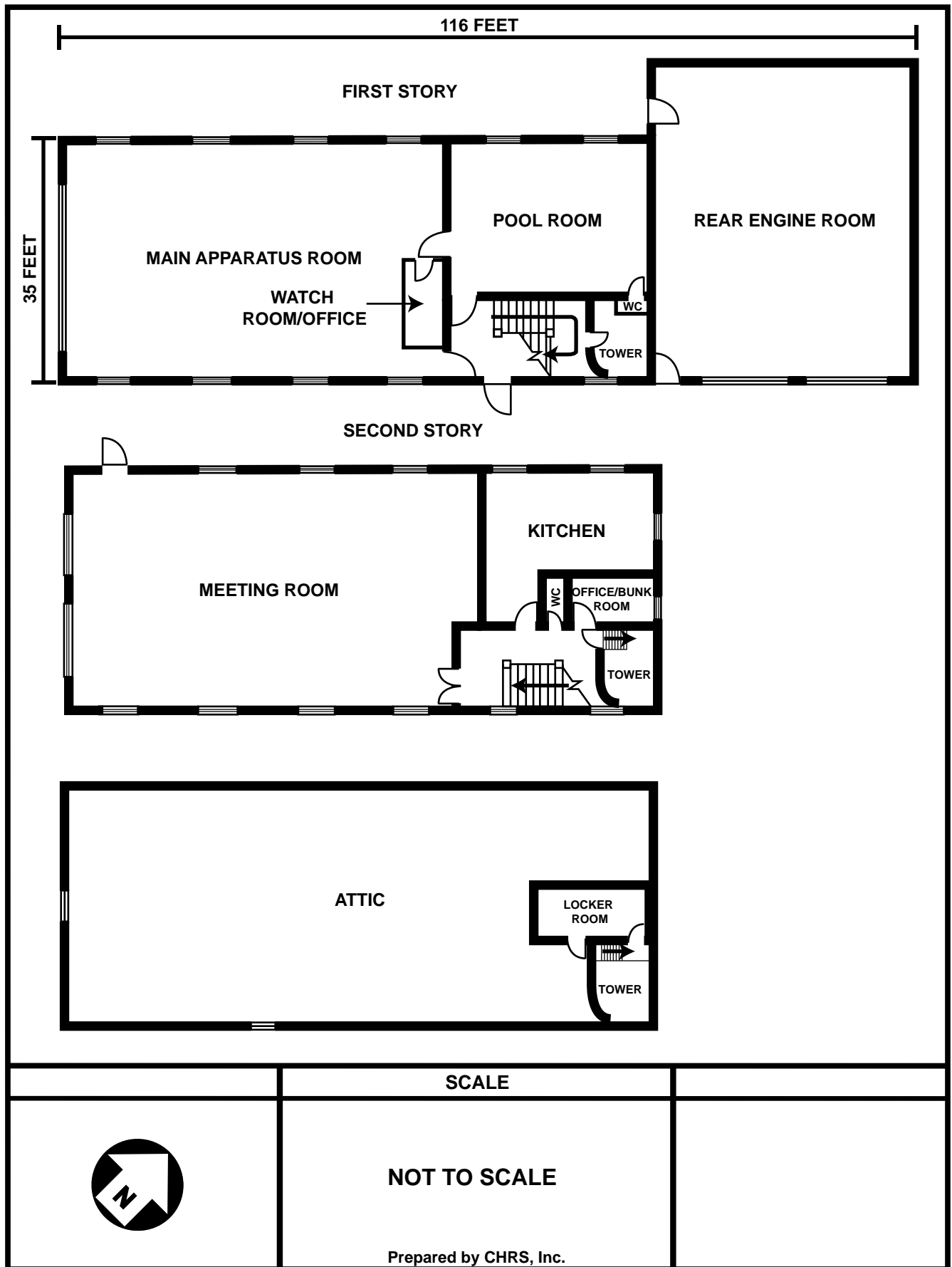


Figure 3: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 - Floor Plan

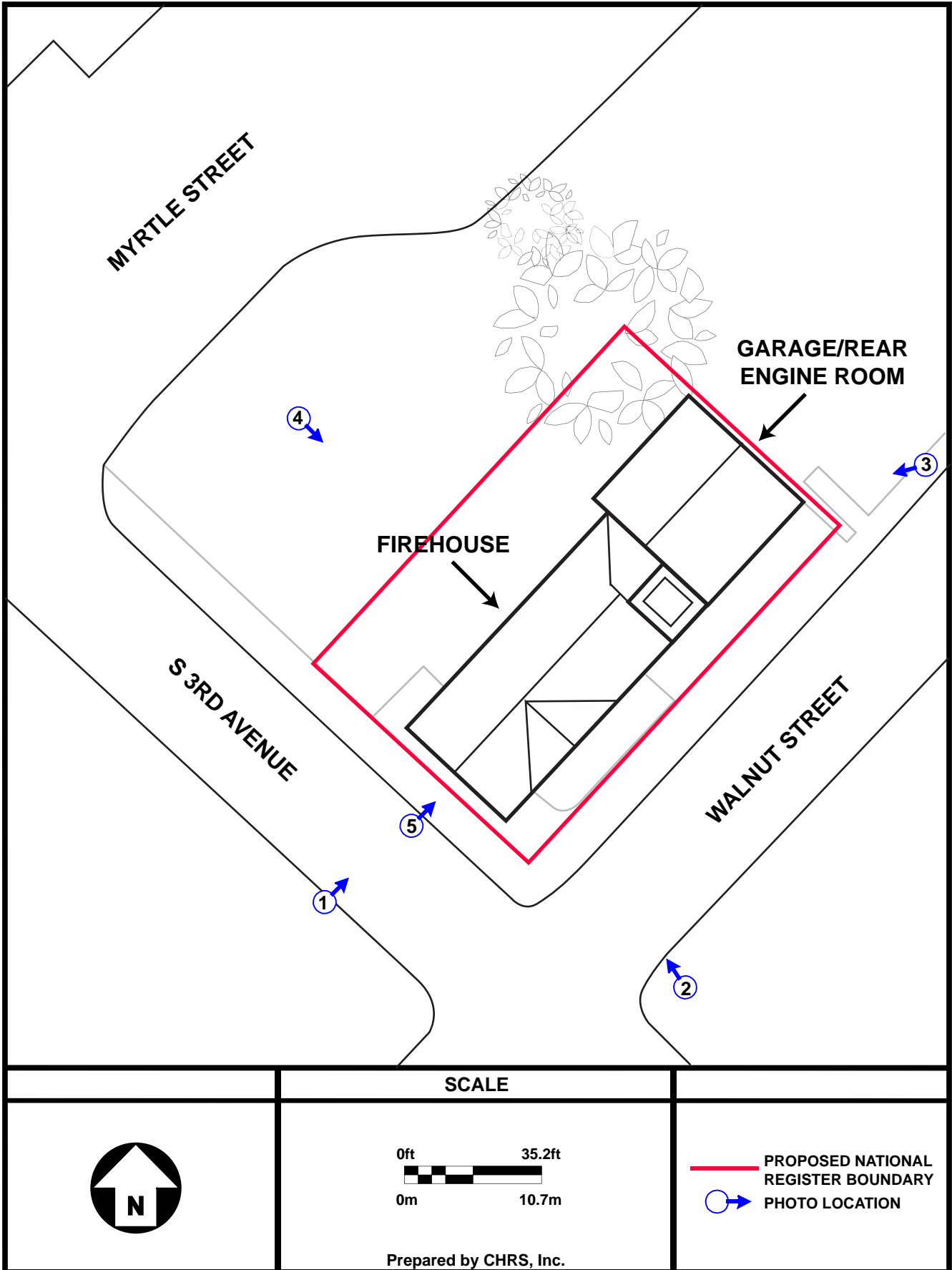


Figure 4: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 - Photograph Location Map A

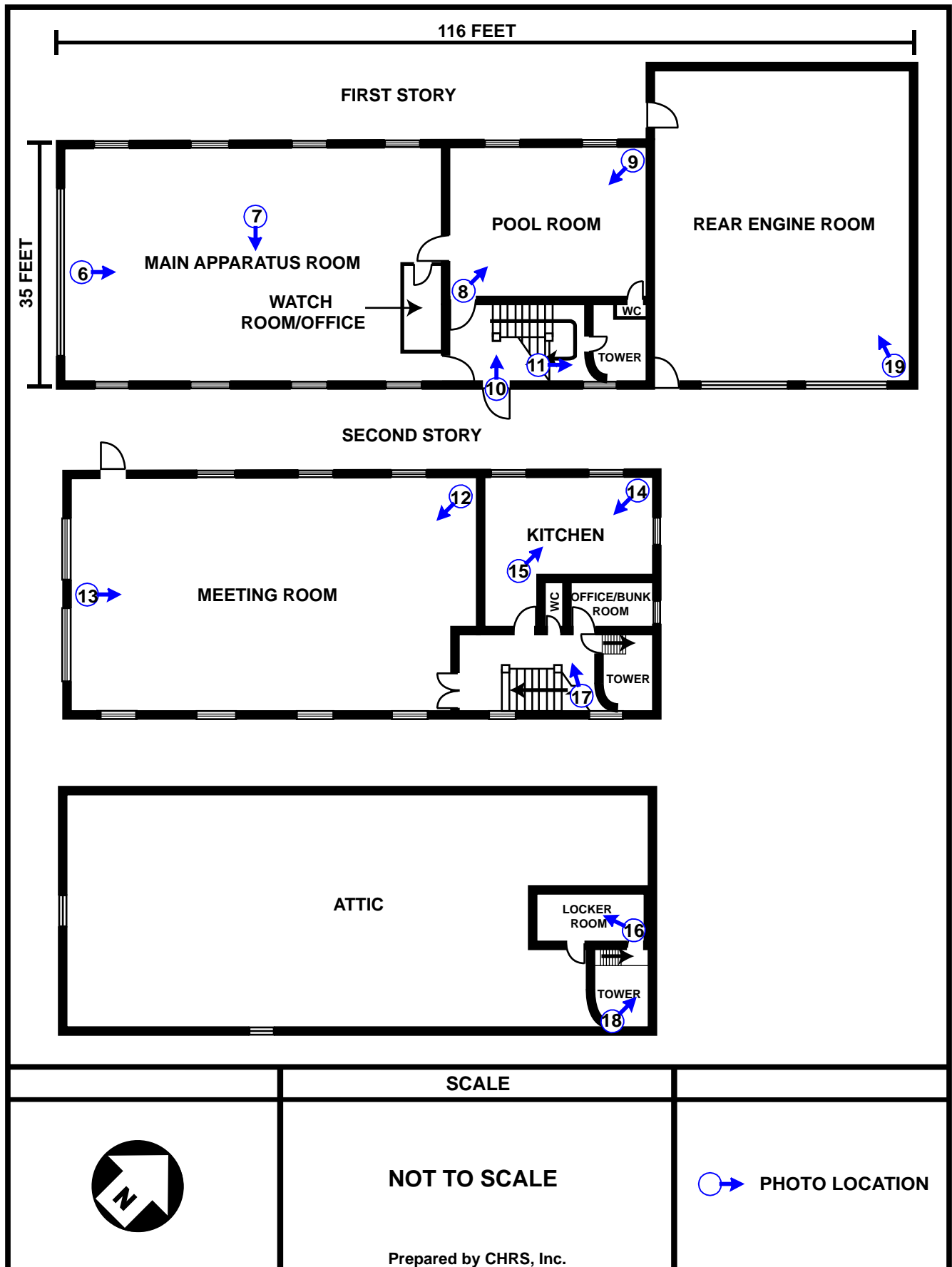


Figure 14: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1
- Photograph Location Map B



Figure 5: Historic photograph showing a partial view of the southwest elevation, ca. 1898 (Royersford Fire Department 2018).



Figure 6: Historic postcard showing the firehouse in 1910 (Royersford Fire Department 2018).

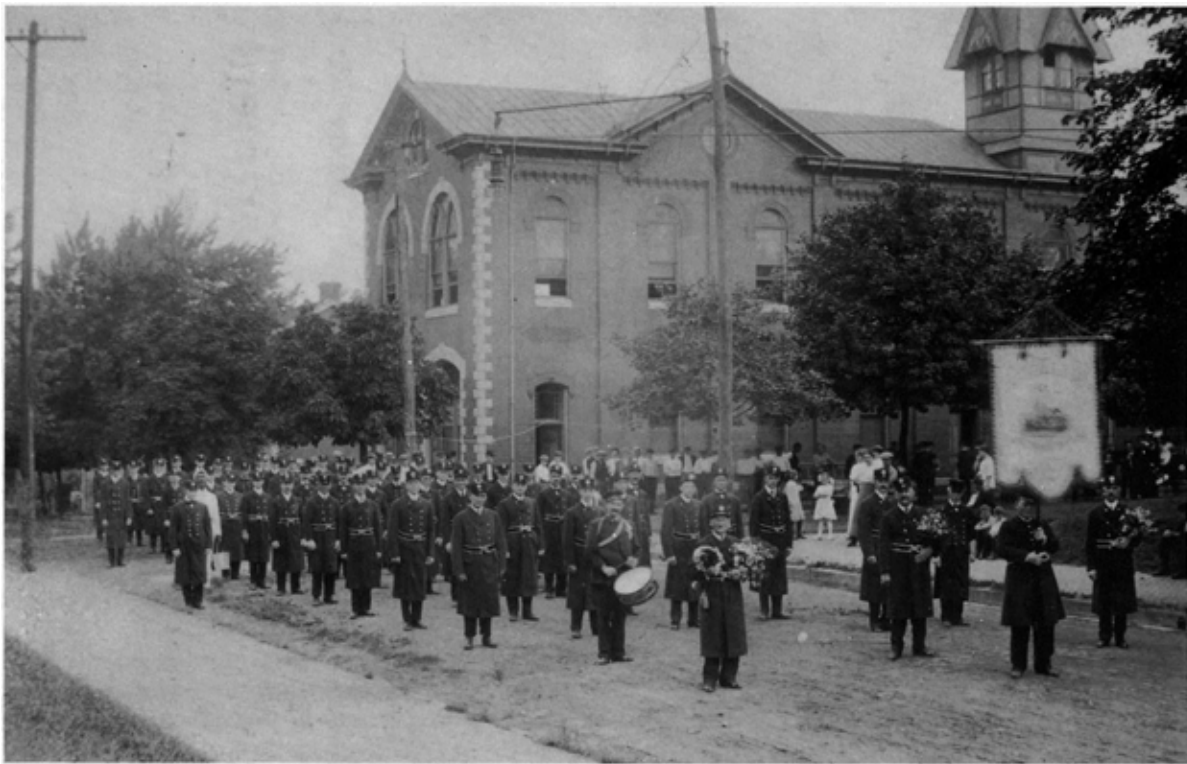


Figure 7: Historic photograph showing the firehouse on September 4, 1913 (Shaner 1983).

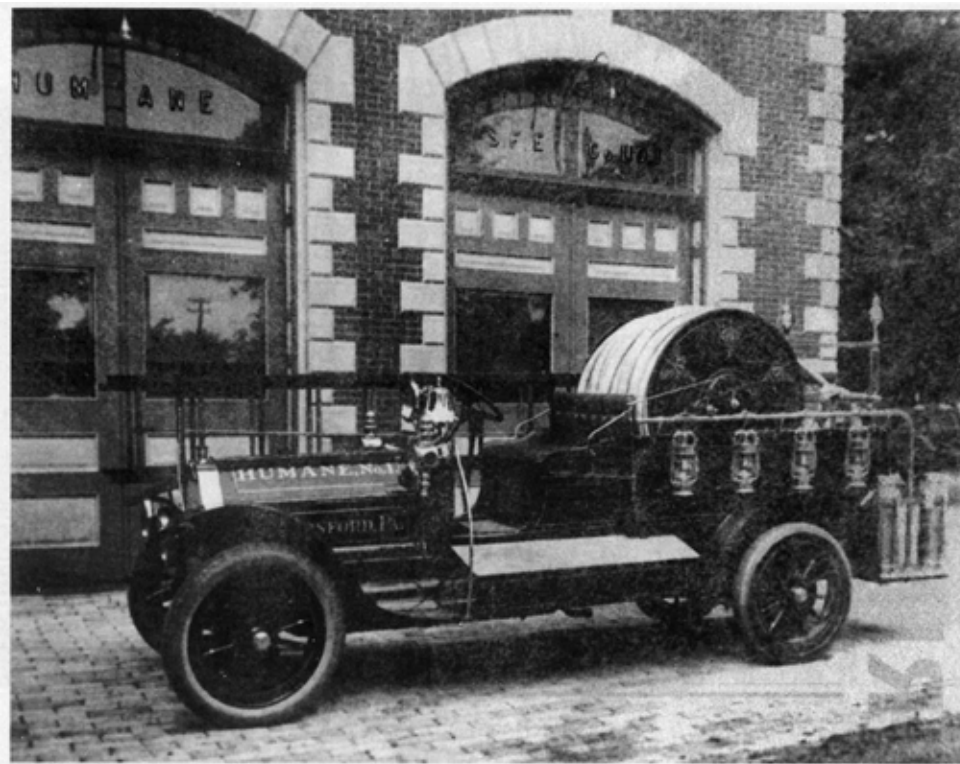


Figure 8: Historic photograph showing a partial view of the southwest elevation on February 27, 1916 (Shaner 1983).



WWI Home Coming Parade 1919 Royersford, Pa.
Royersford Fire Department
Copyright 2012. All Rights Reserved.

Figure 9: Historic photograph showing the firehouse in 1919 (Royersford Fire Department 2018).

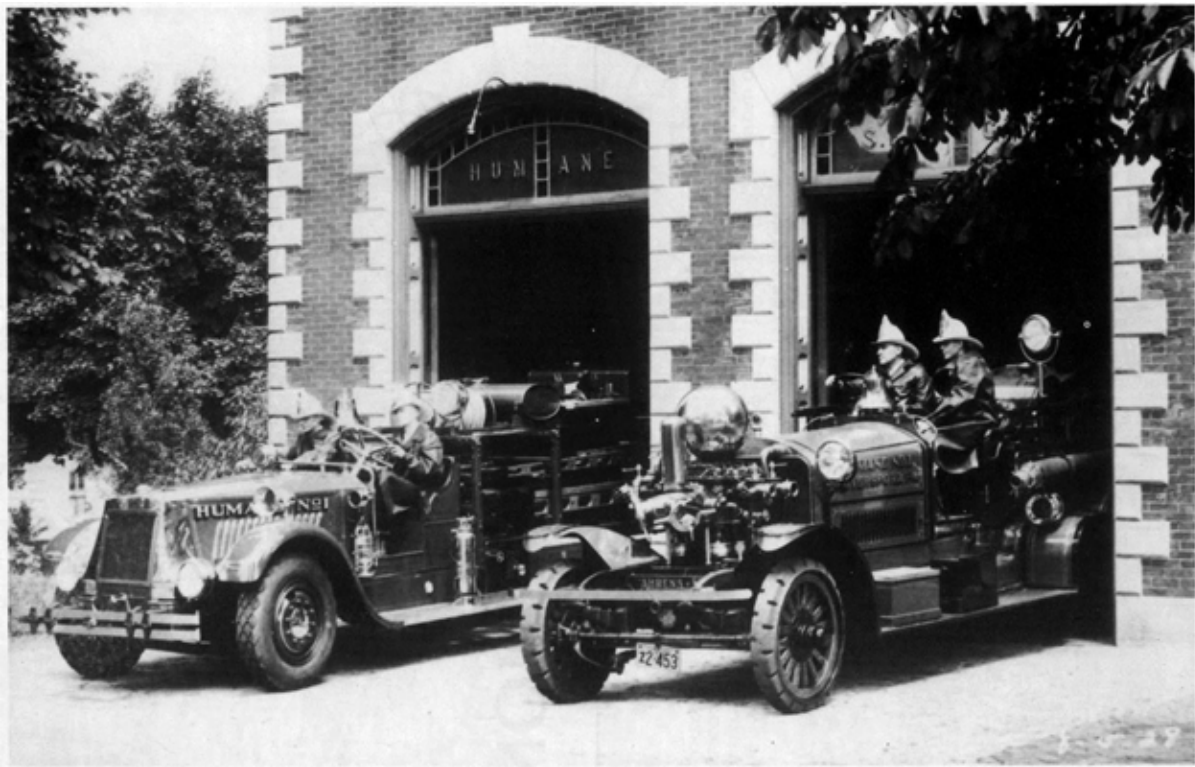


Figure 10: Historic photograph showing a partial view of the southwest elevation on August 5, 1928. The acquisition of the ladder truck (left) necessitated the alteration of the first story in 1932 to a single opening with an overhead door (Shaner 1983).



Figure 11: Historic photograph showing a partial view of the southwest elevation in 1951 after the alteration of the first story to a single vehicular entrance (Shaner 1983).

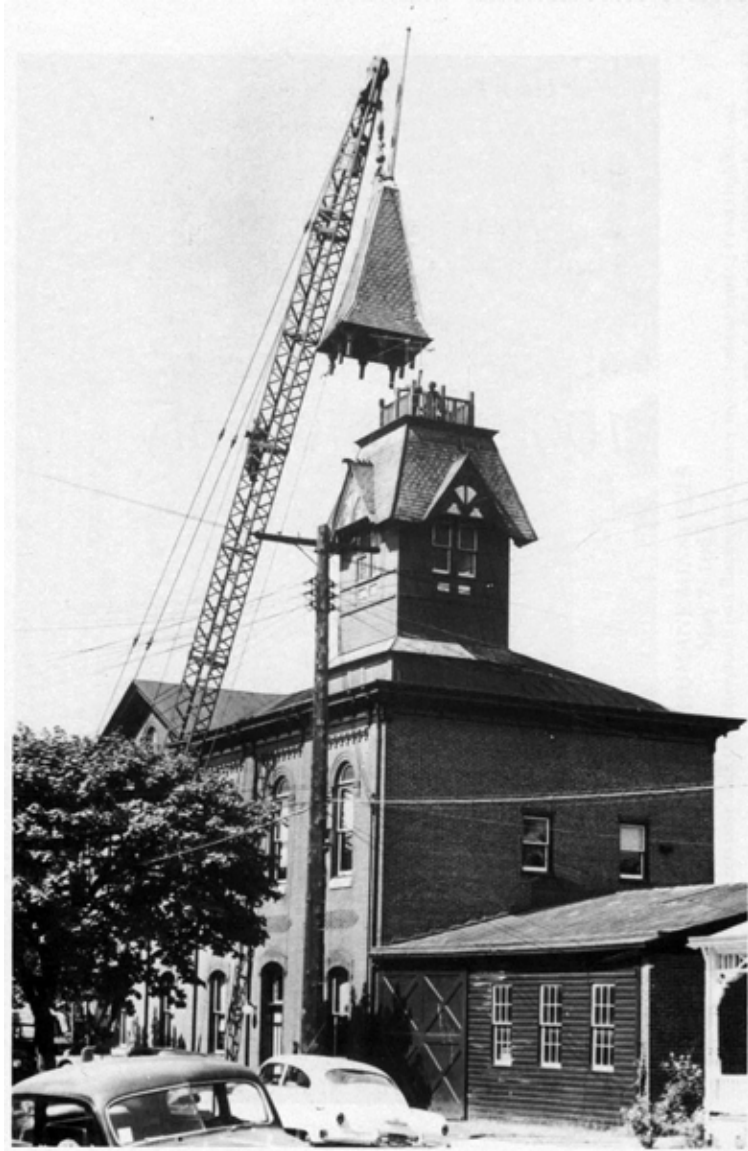


Figure 12: Historic photograph showing the removal of the top portion of the tower on August 24, 1953 (Shaner 1983).



Figure 13: Historic photograph showing the firehouse, ca. 1954 (Shaner 1983).

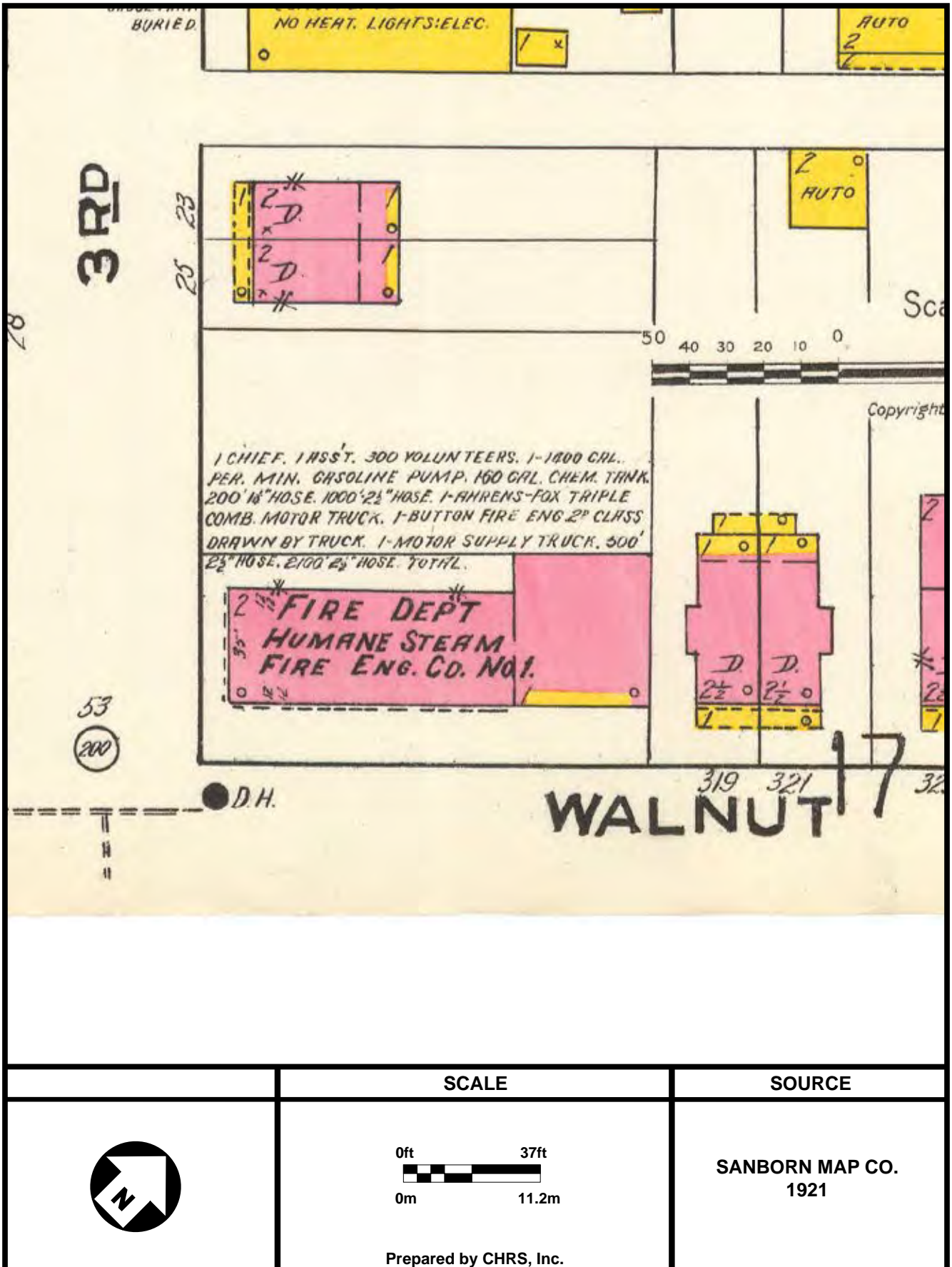


Figure 15: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 ca.1921



Figure 17: Washington Hose and Steam Fire Engine Company, No. 1 (PA SHPO Key No. 000581) – 15 West Hector Street, Conhohocken, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The firehouse was constructed in 1878, is Italianate in style, three bays wide, three stories in height, and features a prominent square hose tower with a wooden belfry. Although larger than the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1, this is one of the most comparable National Register-listed firehouses in Pennsylvania (Photograph by Maureen McDougall 10/20/2018).

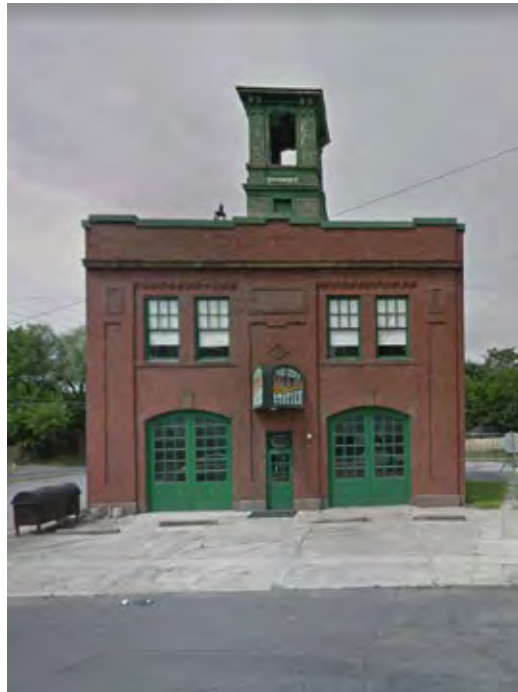


Figure 18: Camp Curtin Fire Station (PA SHPO Key No. 000502) – 2504 N. 6th Street, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. The Camp Curtin Fire Station is another comparable example of a National Register-listed red brick firehouse that is Italianate in style. The firehouse’s hose tower is centered in its front façade and features a square, hipped-roof belfry. The firehouse was constructed in 1910, slightly later than the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 (Google Maps 2017).



Figure 19: Laurel-Rex Fire Company House (PA SHPO Key No. 001055) – 41 South Duke Street, York, York County, Pennsylvania. The Laurel-Rex Fire Company House, constructed in 1878, is an example of an Italianate red brick firehouse with hose tower. The firehouse is more elaborately detailed than the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1. The firehouse has two bell towers: a faux bell tower is located at its northwest corner, and a mansard-roofed belfry rises above the prominent hose tower located at its southwest corner (photograph by Steve Tinker, dated 12-18-2017, courtesy of <https://www.theclio.com/web/entry?id=53136>).



VIEW OF THE FAIRMOUNT FIRE COMPANY NO. 2, FACING NORTH-NORTHWEST (PHOTOGRAPH BY MAUREEN MCDUGALL, 10/20/2018)



VIEW OF THE FAIRMOUNT FIRE COMPANY NO. 2, FACING SOUTHWEST (PHOTOGRAPH BY MAUREEN MCDUGALL, 10/20/2018)



UNDATED MID-20TH-CENTURY PHOTOGRAPH OF THE FAIRMOUNT FIRE COMPANY NO. 2 FACING NORTH-NORTHWEST (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE NORRISTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT)

Figure 20: Fairmount Fire Company No. 2 – 401 West Main Street, Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania - Comparable property to the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1



VIEW OF THE HUMANE FIRE ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1, FACING NORTH-NORTHWEST (PHOTOGRAPH BY MAUREEN MCDOUGALL, 10/20/2018)



VIEW OF THE HUMANE FIRE ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1, FACING SOUTHWEST (PHOTOGRAPH BY MAUREEN MCDOUGALL, 10/20/2018)



UNDATED MID-20TH-CENTURY PHOTOGRAPH OF THE HUMANE FIRE ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1 FACING NORTH-NORTHWEST (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE NORRISTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT)

Figure 21: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 – 129 East Main Street, Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania - Comparable property to the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1



**VIEW OF THE PHILLIES FIRE COMPANY FACING SOUTH-SOUTHEAST
(PHOTOGRAPH BY MAUREEN MCDUGALL, 10/20/2018)**



**VIEW OF THE PHILLIES FIRE COMPANY FACING
NORTH-NORTHEAST (PHOTOGRAPH BY MAUREEN
MCDUGALL, 10/20/2018)**



**PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PHILLIES FIRE COMPANY CIRCA
1920, FACING SOUTH-SOUTHEAST (PHOTOGRAPH
COURTESY OF THE PHILLIES FIRE COMPANY)**

**Figure 22: Phillie Fire Company – 240 Chestnut Street,
Pottstown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania -
Comparable property to the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1**



HUMANE FIRE COMPANY NO.1



STOP

11.11





18

83

18

97

HUMANE FIRE COMPANY NO.1



3 TEST CALL	12 1 st AVE. & MAIN	34 3AVE. & WALNUT
4 COUNTY HOME	22 2 AVE. & MAIN	54 5AVE. & WALNUT
5 SPRING CITY	32 3AVE. & MAIN	64 6 th WALNUT
6 PENNHURST	42 4AVE. & MAIN	94 9 th WALNUT
7 ALL CALL	52 5AVE. & MAIN	
8 LOWER LEWIS RD.	62 6AVE. & MAIN	26 2AVE. & WASH.
9 UPPER LEWIS RD.	72 7AVE. & MAIN	46 4AVE. & WASH.
13 5 th D WAREHOUSE	82 LEWIS RD. & MAIN	66 6 AVE. & WASH.
14 CLOVER LAMP CO		76 7 th E. WASH.
15 FRIEDLAND CREEK PDS.	3 EMERGENCY	28 2AVE. & GREEN
16 DIAMOND		38 3AVE. & GREEN
17 MORRIS WHEELER STEEL CO.		58 5 th GREEN

FRIENDSHIP - WI 5-5292
LIBERTY - WI 8-5545

19 KEYSBURN MFG Co
86 OLD NEEDLE WKS
33 3rd E. CHURCH
53 5AVE. & CHURCH
73 7th E. CHURCH
93 9AVE. & CHURCH
35 3AVE. & CHESTNUT
45 4AVE. & CHESTNUT
55 5AVE. & CHESTNUT
85 8th E. CHESTNUT
67 6th E. OAK
59 5th PINE



120
POUNDS AIR

5200 PSI





MEMBERS ONLY

HALL UPSTAIRS

MEMBERS ONLY

MEMBERS ONLY





















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1

Multiple Name:

State & County: PENNSYLVANIA, Montgomery

Date Received: 10/9/2019 Date of Pending List: 11/1/2019 Date of 16th Day: 11/18/2019 Date of 45th Day: 11/25/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004663

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 11/25/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary NR Criterion: C
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria AOS: Architecture; POS: 1898-1932; LOS: local

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 11/25/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

44TH DISTRICT
STATE SENATOR
KATIE MUTH

SENATE BOX 203044
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3044
717-787-1398
FAX: 717-783-4587

338 MAIN STREET
ROYERSFORD, PA 19468
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Senate of Pennsylvania

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June 17, 2019

David R. Maher, National Register Reviewer
State Historic Preservation Office
The Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

RE: Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 Royersford, Montgomery County National Register Nomination

Dear Mr. Maher,

I am writing to support the nomination of the Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 building in Royersford Borough to the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1897, this firehouse is a prime example of the turn-of-the-century architecture that graces the town. I commend Kathy Platz and Tim Laky for their hard work to restore this building and to bring it to the attention of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office.

The firehouse was designed and built by prominent citizens of Royersford Borough and it served Royersford Borough as its fire station for over a century. This building is a worthy candidate for permanent preservation given its robust and longstanding ties to the community. With this designation, the firehouse will certainly continue to serve as a point of pride for Royersford and the surrounding community in Montgomery and Chester counties.

Preserve such a notable and classic place in our community at a time with much renovation and innovation is taking place is appropriate timing. I encourage your favorable consideration of this National Register Nomination on June 19th. I appreciate your continued work on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Muth'.

Katie Muth
Senator, 44th District

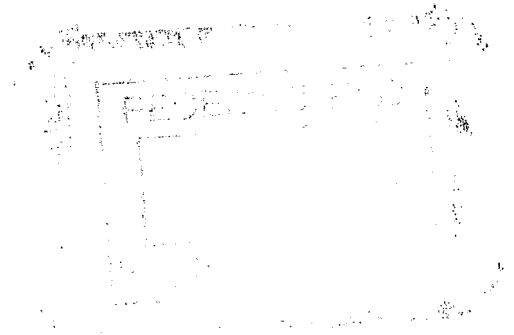
CC: Kathy Platz and Tom Laky, Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 Owners



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

October 8, 2019

Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington DC 20240



Re: Highland Park, Allegheny County
Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1, Montgomery County
Stoehr & Fister Building, Lackawanna County
Wilkes-Barre Silk Company Mill, Luzerne County

Dear Ms. Beasley:

Enclosed please find the National Register of Historic Places nominations for the above properties. Included is the signed first page of each nomination, CDs containing the true and correct copies of the nominations and letters of support, and CDs with tif images. The proposed action for the properties is listing in the National Register. Our Historic Preservation Board members support the nominations.

If you have any questions regarding the nominations or our request for action, please contact David Maher at damaher@pa.gov or 717-783-9918. Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

David Maher
National Register Reviewer

enc.