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7. 1	DESCRIPTION							-	
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		🔀 Alter	ed	Unaltered			Moved	🔀 Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old City Hall and Engine House is inconspicuously located among the commercial buildings of Main Street. The narrow brick building is two stories in height and is covered by a hipped roof with a simple molded cornice around the base of the roof. The ridge of the roof was originally crowned with a belfry containing louvred arched opening, a concave pyramidal roof, and ornamental finial. In 1875 a sketchbook of Maryland artist, Frank B. Mayer, contains a detailed drawing of the now removed cupola which is also depicted in a 19th. century photograph. First shingled with wood, the roof now has sheet metal covering.

The first floor of the north, or street, facade originally had large openings to provide fire engine entrances. These openings were filled in with a shop front soon after the building was sold by the City. The present commercial window arrangement replaces at least one earlier one and is topped with a cornice molding supported on scrolled brackets. To the left of the shop front is a door which opens onto a straight flight of stairs leading to the second floor.

The second floor facade is common bond brick and has three windows, each with six-over-six sash. The fact that these windows are smaller and have what appear to be later frames than the obviously original windows on the building's west side suggests that the second floor front may have been remodelled also. The west side windows contain nine-overnine sash; those on the building's east side have been blocked up.

The building's first floor interior contains two large rooms and is completely covered with modern work; thus, the extent of original woodwork is unknown. The second floor originally contained a large meeting room, but has since been partitioned into several offices. Some original trim remains, however, including portions of the plaster cornice and simple fluted chair rail. Also remaining is a section of stair railing and several original window frames. An extension on the south side has given an extra room to both the first and second floor. As, with the exception of the belfry, the original structure is largely intact, it is hoped that the building will be restored.

3. 1

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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	🔲 16th Century	📄 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicate	ole and Known) Built	1821-1822	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Approprie	ate)	
Abor iginal	🔲 Educati on	Political	📋 Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	X Other (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	Local History
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
🔀 Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Number 211 Main Street was built in 1821-1822 to serve the dual function of a City Hall and fire engine house and was the first structure built by the City of Annapolis for municipal use. As originally designed, the ground floor of the building housed the fire engines, and the second floor contained a meeting room for the citizens and City Council. The erection of the building provided a muchneeded boost for local fire-fighting efforts. When construction was finished, a number of wells with pumps were sunk throughout the city to provide a water source for fires. One well and pump was located directly outside the City Hall and Engine House. Just prior to completion of the building, the fire company was reorganized to include three directors and three captains. A captain was placed in charge of each of the town's three fire engines. (One of these fire engines still exists and is owned by Historic Annapolis, Inc.) To insure proper maintenance of all equipment the position of Keeper of the Engines and Horses was established, and was first held by Elijah Wells.

The building served its intended functions until 1868 when the town government moved its offices to Duke of Gloucester Street. The old building was auctioned and was converted by its purchasers into a commercial establishment. The building somewhat altered from its original form and without its belfry, is used for commercial purposes today. Despite the changes in appearance, the simple Federal-style structure remains a significant local landmark, intimately associated with the early nineteenth century history of the City. It also survives as a rare example of an early fire house.

> DEU 16 1014 NATIONA REGISTER

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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Maryland						
OUNTY						
Anne Arundel County						
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y					
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE					
JAN 2 5 1019						

(Number all entries)

## Old City Hall & Engine House

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks1970StateMaryland Historical Trust2525 Riva RoadAnnapolis, Maryland 21401Code: 24





	Form 10-301 (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT O NATIONAL PARK SER	STATE Maryland	Maryland			
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