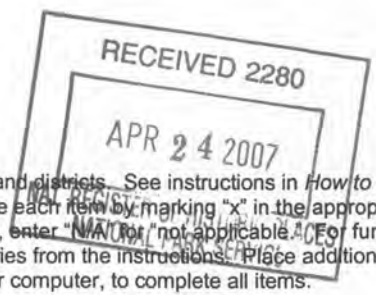


537

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Engine Company 12

other names Old Engine Company 12

2. Location

street & number 1626 North Capitol Street, N.W. not for publication

city or town Washington, D.C. vicinity

state District of Columbia code DC county _____ code 001 zip code 20001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

DAVID MALONEY, ACTING SHPO 4-20-2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews 6/6/2007

Engine Company 12
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Firehouses in Washington, D.C.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Firehouse

GOVERNMENT/Firehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 20th CENTURY REVIVAL/Colonial Revival
(Dutch Revival)

foundation Brick
walls Brick

roof Standing Seam Metal
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 12

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

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Description Summary:

Engine Company 12, located at 1626 North Capitol Street, N.W., was constructed in 1896-97 in the developing suburbs around and beyond Florida Avenue. The three-story, Victorian-era firehouse designed by Snowden Ashford and executed in a Dutch Revival style, including character-defining end gables, is a highly articulated and picturesque structure. The building, prominently sited on a corner lot, affords a commanding presence on North Capitol Street despite its current vacant status.

General Description:

Exterior:

The three-story brick firehouse is a large, three-part structure with its principal wing facing North Capitol Street and a two-story hyphen extending connecting the main block to a rear wing. The principal wing of the building is the most highly part, articulated by a steeply pitched cross gable roof with a projecting Dutch gable on-center of the façade and facing North Capitol Street and Dutch end gables on the north and south ends. The original brick of the main block of the building has been painted, obscuring some of the details.

The front elevation of the firehouses is divided into three bays with apparatus doors located to either side of a central entry door on the first story and window openings separated by double-height brick pilasters on the second story. The present overhead apparatus doors replaced the original paired wood doors and their transoms. The second story, separated from the first story by a stone stringcourse with four brackets, features a tri-partite grouping of single windows on center and single windows to either side. All of the windows are capped by bold projecting window heads, supported by modillions and pilasters. Decorative shields above the two end windows contain the number "12" for the Engine Company name. The third story of the building, within the Dutch gable, consists of a tri-partite "Palladian" window on-center framed with a bold molding.

The south elevation along Quincy Street consists of the end wall of the front wing, the side elevation of the "hyphen" and the end wall of the rear wing. This hyphen with a random assortment of single windows on both the first and second stories, steps down from a high two-stories to a lower two-story level through the use of elegant curved cornice line that mimics the lines of the Dutch end gables of the main wing. The south (end) wall of the main wing is divided into two equal bays of single window openings on the first and second stories and a Palladian window in the third story, on-center and within the Dutch end gable. The south (end) wall of the rear wing is similar to the end wall of the main wing, though less ornate and smaller scaled, and defined principally by its Dutch end gable with an oculus window on-center of the third story, and steeply pitched gable roof behind.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 12

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

The north elevation of the firehouse, attached to a one-story structure at the first story, is notable for its stepped parapet wall obscuring the gable roof behind it.

Interior:

Although vacant and deteriorating, the interior retains some of its original features, including, most notably a robust quarter-turn stair with a heavy square newel with bulls' eye trim in the four faces of the cap, and heavy square balusters supporting a wide handrail.

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 pattern of our history.
- B** Property 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)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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 # _____

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1896-1957

Significant Dates

1896-97

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Snowden Ashford

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Engine Company 12

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The context for firehouses is described in the National Register Multiple Property Listing: *Firehouses in Washington, D.C.* This thematic document divides the approximately 150-year history of firehouses in Washington, D.C. into four periods, distinguished by the organization of firefighting operations and technology, by architectural style and designer. The Engine Company 12, constructed in 1896-97, survives as one of the last extant firehouses built in the second period of firehouse construction, the Victorian-era period. Engine Company 12, one of the last and architecturally one of the best and most intact of the extant firehouses was designed by architect Snowden Ashford in a Dutch Revival style. The building provides an excellent example of the architect's work and of the building type and retains a high degree of integrity on both the exterior and interior. In addition, the building has been a visual landmark of the Eckington neighborhood since its construction, setting the tone for institutional and commercial construction along North Capitol Street.

The Engine Company 12 meets National Register Criteria A and C with Architecture and Community Planning and Development as the Areas of Significance. The Period of Significance extends from 1896-97 when the building was constructed until 1957, a date fifty years in the past from the present.

Resource History and Historic Context:

In 1896 when Engine Company 12 was under construction, both sides of North Capitol Street north of Florida Avenue were in rapid development. By then, the city had outgrown its original boundaries and speculative development was pushing outside and even well beyond the outskirts of the original city. Along North Capitol Street and within the larger Eckington neighborhood, developers were improving the city squares with rows of late Victorian, Queen Anne style dwelling forms that catered to the city's burgeoning middle-class residents. Engine Company 12, built contemporaneously with neighboring row houses, is sympathetic in design.

The highly picturesque Engine Company 12 was designed by architect Snowden Ashford and provides an excellent representation of his work. Ashford, known primarily for his design of public school buildings, is also credited with the design of two other firehouses in the city: the 1902 Engine Company 25 and the 1916 Engine Company 28 (a contributing building within the National Register-listed Cleveland Park Historic District).

Snowden Ashford was born in Washington, D.C. in 1866 and received his education at Lehigh University and Lafayette College. After graduation, he worked briefly as City Surveyor in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He worked on federal projects under Alfred B. Mullett as Supervising Architect of the Treasury, with John L. Smithmeyer of Smithmeyer and Pelz, most noted for their design

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Engine Company 12

Name of Property

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of the Library of Congress building. In 1892, Ashford helped found the Washington Architectural Club and was an early member of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

In 1895, Ashford became the assistant in the city's Office of Building Inspector, the municipal agency entrusted with the administration of building laws and the design of the city's public buildings. In 1901, Ashford was promoted to head this office, eventually becoming the city's first Municipal Architect when that post was created by Congress in 1910. He held the position until his replacement in 1921 by Albert L. Harris. During his term, Ashford designed or superintended the design of more than 150 city buildings, including most notably schools and hospitals.

Ashford's specialty was school design, and in 1906, he studied the building type in major cities across the country.¹ Among the schools which are credited to him are the Jesse Reno School (1903); John H. Ketcham Elementary School (1908); Randle Highlands Elementary School (1911); Crummell School (1911); Cleveland Elementary School (1911); Wisconsin Avenue Vocational School (1911); Military Road School (1912); Park View Elementary School (1916) and Eastern High School (1921-23).

In 1921, Ashford left government service and practiced architecture in the city independently. He was the supervisor responsible for employing the newly developed concrete construction used at the Meridian Hill Studio Apartments, designed by George Oakley Totten, Jr. in 1922.² He died in 1927.

Engine Company 12, vacated by the Fire Department in 1987³, and thus dubbed Old Engine Company 12, was rented for several years by the Salvation Army, but is now a vacant, city-owned property. Despite the building's current vacant status, the well-preserved and intact building is a familiar and well-loved landmark along North Capitol Street.

¹ Antoinette J. Lee. National Register Multiple Property Document: "Public School Buildings of Washington, D.C. 1804-1930," 1989.

² James M. Goode. *Best Addresses: A Century of Washington's Distinguished Apartment Houses*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988, p. 213.

³ This date was provided by Firefighter Jackson Gearhart.

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Engine Company 12

Name of Property

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County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 12

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

Section 9 Page 7

Major Bibliographical References:

Baist's Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, DC. Philadelphia: GW Baist, (Vol. 3) 1896, 1903, 1919, 1925, 1931, 1937, 1945, 1954, 1960, 1968, (Vol. 4) 1927, 1936, 1943, 1959.

Baldwin Memorial Archives, American Institute of Architects Library.

Berk, Sally L. "The History of Washington, DC's Pre-World War II Firehouses," DC Historic Preservation Division, June 1992.

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Bushong, William, Judith Helm Robinson, and Julie Mueller. A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter, the American Institute of Architects, 1887-1987. Washington, DC: The Washington Architectural Foundation Press, 1987.

Commission of Fine Arts Minutes. Record Group 66, National Archives.

District of Columbia Archives, Record Group 17, the Department of Public Works, Engineering Department Files, 1897-1953, Part VI: Engine Houses, Box 63.

District of Columbia Fire Department. "Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Honoring D.C.'s Black Men & Women in Blue." Program, July 13, 1985.

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Glass, Darlene and Claude. Video, "History of Engine Company No. 21," n.d.

Holmes, Theodore, Chief. Interview, October 10, 1991.

Kohler, Sue A. The Commission of Fine Arts, A Brief History, 1910-1976. Washington, D.C.: The Commission of Fine Arts, 1984.

McCarl, Robert. The District of Columbia Fire Fighter's Project, A Case Study in Occupational Folklife. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1985.

Vertical Files. "Fire Department: Engine Houses, 1815-1929, 1930-1939, 1940-1959."

Washington Perspectives, Incorporated. "Firehouse Building Survey," DC Department of Housing and Community Development, 1986.

Washington Star Archives, Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

Withey, Henry R. and Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Engine Company 12

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

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Section 9 Page 8

Zurier, Rebecca. The American Firehouse: an Architectural and Social History. New York: Abbeville Press, Inc., 1982.

Engine Company 12
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5,000 square feet

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8	3 2 5 7 5 4	4 3 0 8 7 1 2	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Berk, Architectural Historian; Kim Williams (edited, 2007), Architectural Historian

Organization The Capitol Fire Museum date March 2001

street & number 2214 Wyoming Avenue, NW telephone _____

city or town Washington, D.C. state _____ zip code 20008

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- X A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- X A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- X Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name District of Columbia Fire Department

street & number 441 4th Street, N.W. telephone _____

city or town Washington, D.C. state District of Columbia zip code 20001

Paperwork Reduction 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. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 10

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Engine Company 12 at 1626 North Capitol Street, NW occupies Lot 1 of Square 3101 in the District of Columbia.

Boundary Justification:

Engine Company 12 has been associated with this lost since construction of the firehouse on the site in 1896-97.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Engine Company 12

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is common to all photographs:

Engine Company 12
1626 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C.
Kim Williams, photographer
March 2007
DC Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO)

- 1) View looking northwest showing south and east elevations
1/5
- 2) View looking west showing east elevation
2/5
- 3) Detail of central Dutch gable on east elevation
3/5
- 4) View looking north showing south elevation of main block
4/5
- 5) View looking easterly showing south elevation of main block, hyphen and rear wing
5/5

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

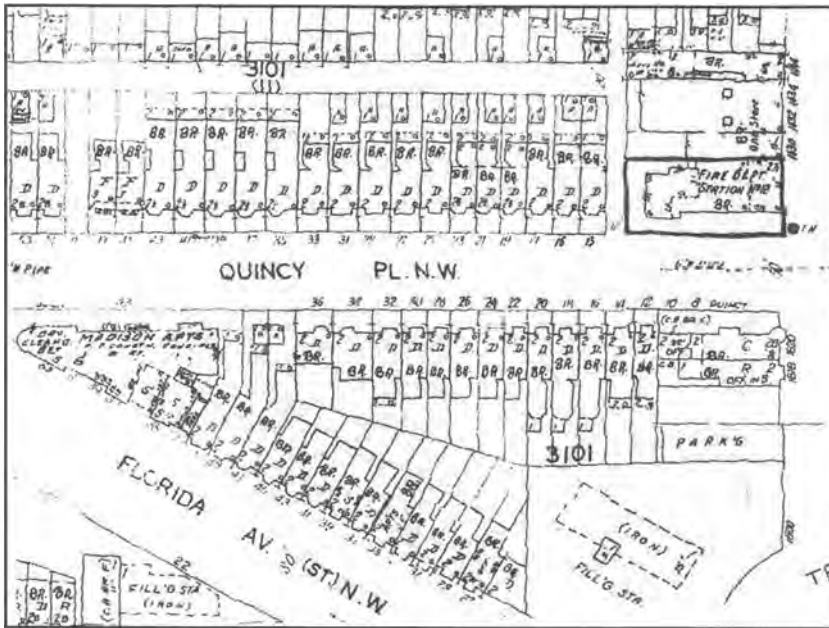
Engine Company 12

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

SITE MAP



Engine Company 12
1626 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, D.C.
(From Sanborn Map, 1991)

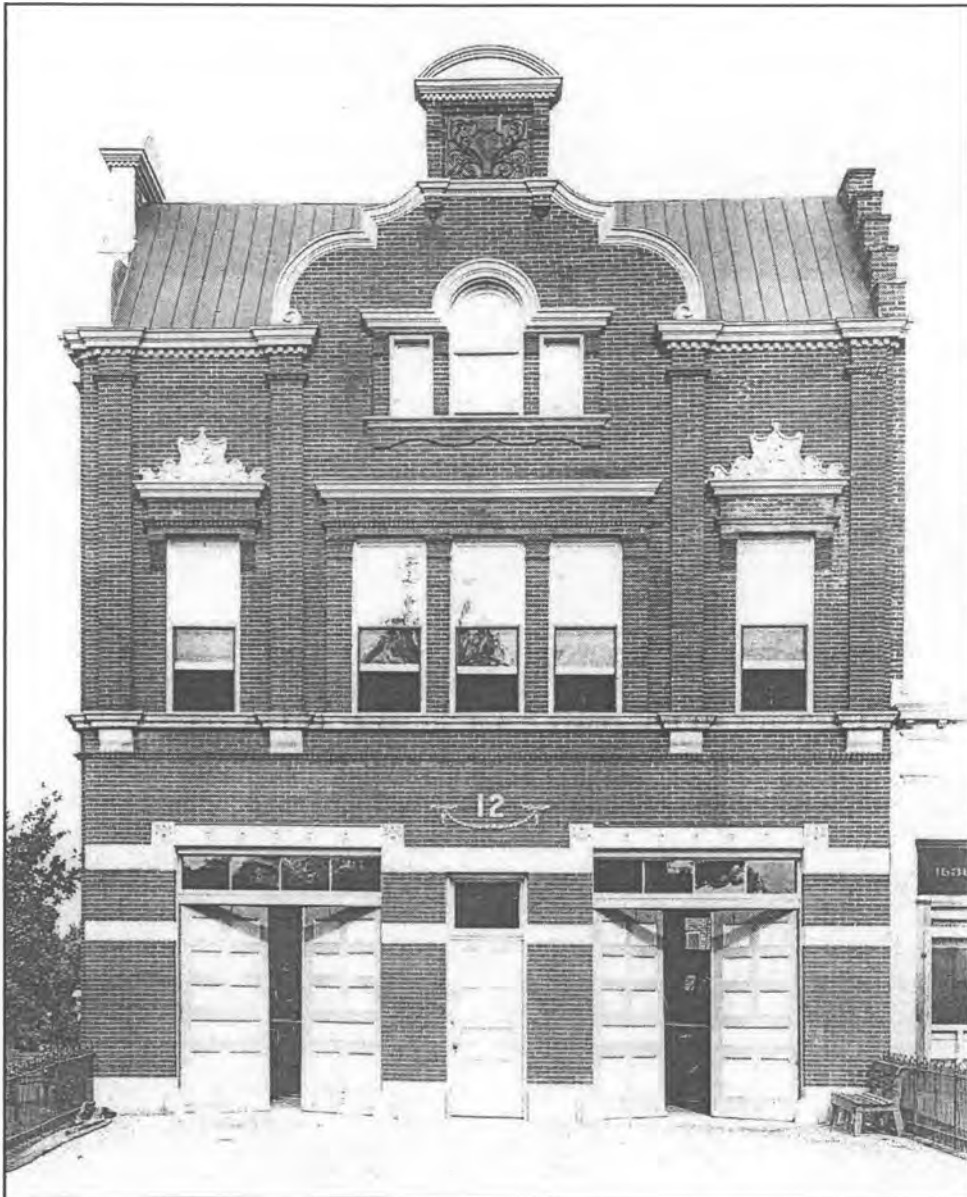
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 12
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

HISTORIC PHOTOS



Historic Photo of Engine Company 12 (circa 1908)
(From the Collection of Jackson Gearhart)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Engine Company 12
NAME:

MULTIPLE Firehouses in Washington DC MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 4/24/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/14/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/29/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/07/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000537

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6/6/07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A&C
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 6/6/2007

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Engine Company 12
1626 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC

Kim Williams
March 2007

DC HPO

View looking northwest showing south and east elevations

1/5



Engine Company 12
1626 North Capitol Street
Washington, DC
Kim Williams
March 2007

DC HPO

View looking west showing east elevation

2/5



Engine Company 12
1626 North Capitol Street
Washington, DC
Kim Williams
March 2007

DC HPO

Detail of central Dutch gable on east elevation

3/5



Engine Company 12

1626 North Capitol Street

Washington, DC

Kim Williams

March 2007

DC HPO

View looking north showing south
elevation of main block

4/5



Engine Company 12
1626 North Capitol Street
Washington, DC
Kim Williams
March 2007
DC HPO

View looking easterly showing south elevation of
5/5 main block, hyphen and rear wing

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500979