

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic Engine Company No. 28
and/or common Los Angeles Fire Station No. 28

2. Location

street & number 644/646 So. Figuora Street _____ not for publication
city, town Los Angeles _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 25
state California code 06 county Los Angeles code 037

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Los Angeles
street & number City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street
city, town Los Angeles _____ vicinity of _____ state California

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Los Angeles County Recorder
street & number 100 N. Hill Street
city, town Los Angeles _____ state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This fireproof structure consists of a three-story building with basement. It is built of reinforced concrete with a surface layer of brick on the street facade and stucco on the other three sides. Major architectural features include twin parapet towers with inset arches, capped by flagpoles.

The front facade of this institutional building contains Renaissance Revival/Lombardy influence/"classical" detailing popular at the time of construction. The lowest level is constructed of concrete blocks. Brick work above this level, at the first floor, is banded. The lower floor is broken by two large square openings for the fire trucks to pass through and a small door to the left for visitors/firemen. The two central doorways are recessed and framed by brackets. The doors are double, swinging, and have 8 small panes of glass in the upper half. Moving upward, the windows are contained within two-story arched bays. Three cartouches articulate the bays. The arches are emphasized by patterned brick work and decorative moldings in a light color which contrast with the red brick. The sash windows, with pilaster and entablature surrounds, give a simple/utilitarian feeling to the building. Above the first and third floors is a molded cornice. At the roof, the projecting cornice is decorated by moldings. The towers contain recessed arches and decorative brick work, and are capped by hipped roofs (which originally were of red tiles). The facade of the building is largely intact.

The south side of the building has a stucco exterior, with windows placed intermittently along the second floor. Windows consist of 2 double-hung sash, 1 narrow sash, 6 casements of various sizes, and 3 windows with transoms at the top; all openings are recessed into the stucco and are of different sizes, illustrating the various functions of the interior. Vents are visible near the roofline and also along the ground level. The stepped flat roof is clearly seen from the sides of the building.

The north side of the building abuts a complex which is partially new construction and partially a 5-story building, presently being renovated. The exposed portion of the north side is also stucco and there are only 2 small windows on that side of the building. The variation in the roof line can be seen.

The rear of the building is partially exposed with a stucco exterior. Louvered vents are present on the corner towers, where the fire hoses were hung to dry. A fire escape is attached to the third floor. The rear windows are double-hung sash, 4 on each floor. An 8/8 casement window, which appears to be a former door, is located on the third floor and provides the only oddity at the rear. Several temporary structures, a 1950's handball court and a maintenance structure, obscure the first level of the rear. It is proposed that these exterior structures be removed and replaced with a freight elevator and handicapped facilities when the building is rehabilitated into an arts center.

The interior of the first floor of the building features a brick floor throughout. Classical detailing decorates the support columns. Italian tiles line the walls to a height of approximately five feet. There is also a skylight for the first floor through a "light well". A mahogany console, which originally housed the alarm system, remains; there are several mahogany built-in lockers. The ceilings on the first and third floors feature molded tin. There are additional skylights, with chain pulleys for opening, on the third floor.

The area surrounding the building is densely populated and built-up with skyscrapers; it is the commercial district of downtown Los Angeles. There have been several proposals to demolish the building and replace it with a skyscraper. Presently the building is planned to be converted into an arts center.

8. Significance

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

Builder: Kubach and Company

Specific dates: 1912

Builder/Architect: Architects: J.P. Krempel & W.E. Erkes

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The building is one of a very few remaining old buildings in the commercial district of downtown central Los Angeles. The building has unique "classical" detailing, and is one of the first reinforced concrete fire stations in the area. The fire station is of historical significance in the growth and development of the Los Angeles Basin and provides information on fire fighting techniques and equipment. The building is a dominant reminder of the Los Angeles heritage, in an area that presently contains 3 skyscrapers with 4 more under construction within a 5 block radius.

The use of Renaissance Revival detailing on monumental public structures was popular during the period when the Engine Company was constructed. With the towers, arches, and entablature surrounds, the building provides an excellent example of a local adaptation of the style. The brick facade is also indicative of this period, and is most unusual in Los Angeles.

The history of the building is interesting for the information it gives on the development of the city and the various methods of fire fighting. A Fire Department Report for the year ending June 30, 1912 states: "At the present time we have under construction a three-story reinforced concrete engine house, with basement, on the lot owned by the City at Seventh and Figueroa St. This house is intended for motor driven apparatus, and also to house the central office equipment of the proposed new manual Fire Alarm & Police Signal System." The Chief Engineer, Archie J. Eley, further states in this report: "I urgently recommend that a Manual Fire Alarm System be installed without delay, with Central Station at the new engine house to be erected at Seventh and Figueroa Sts. And that the City own its own conduits and wires, thereby doing away with leased wires as at present, and that 550 Fire Alarm Boxes be purchased, to properly cover the City. The system should be so devised as to allow of the growth of the City in the future. ... The present systems are entirely inadequate for the present size of the City, and it is practically impossible to install any more boxes on the present Automatic System, as the circuits are now entirely overloaded." In a subsequent report for the year (1912), Eley "urgently" recommended the installation of a modern Fire Alarm System with at least 600 Fire Alarm boxes, with one to be located at "every school house and theatre" in the City.

The report for the year ending June 30, 1914 describes the Engine Co. as "equipped with a Gorham-Seagrave motor driven pumping engine and a motor-driven Seagrave combination chemical and hose wagon, with the necessary equipment of 2 1/2-inch hose, accessories and a full crew of men." The report also urges the installation of a modern fire alarm system in the Central Station. This recommendation is repeated in similar reports for the next two years, but there is no reference to the recommendation in the 1917 report--when it is assumed that the system was installed. The console for the fire alarm system remains on the premises, although the actual alarm has been removed.

For a number of years the Fire Chief reportedly made his residence on the third floor of the Station and an elevator was installed for access to the Chief's apartment, without going

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property .179

Quadrangle name Hollywood, CA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	1	3	8	3	8	6	0	3	7	6	8	1	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 17, subdivision of land known as Block 22-1/2 and being part of Hancock Survey as per map recorded in Book 3, Page 16, of Miscellaneous Records in the Office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Hugh I. Biele

Revised by staff OHP.

organization Attorney at Law

date July 8, 1979

street & number 707 Wilshire Blvd., W20-1

telephone (213) 614-3493

city or town Los Angeles

state California

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Kenneth M. Ellen

title

date 9/28/79

For HCRA use only
I hereby certify that
[Signature]
Keeper of the Records
Admin.
Date

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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through the rest of the firehouse. The Chief's apartment was later converted to a facility for the firemen's association.

Engine Co. No. 28 is located within the central Los Angeles Redevelopment area designated by the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles, California. The City has reserved an easement on the second floor of the building for the proposed "Pedway" system of elevated walkways for the commercial district of central Los Angeles. The building will also face the route of the proposed "People-mover" which will provide rapid transit from the Los Angeles Coliseum up Figueroa Street and over to the Civic Center area. In relation to the surrounding buildings, Engine Co. No. 28 provides a refreshing reduction of scale and serves as an historical monument to the growth and development of the Los Angeles Community.

FHR-8-300A
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CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

1

Building Permits, City of Los Angeles, City Hall.

Land Use Planning and Management System, Los Angeles Planning Dept, City of Los Angeles, City Hall.

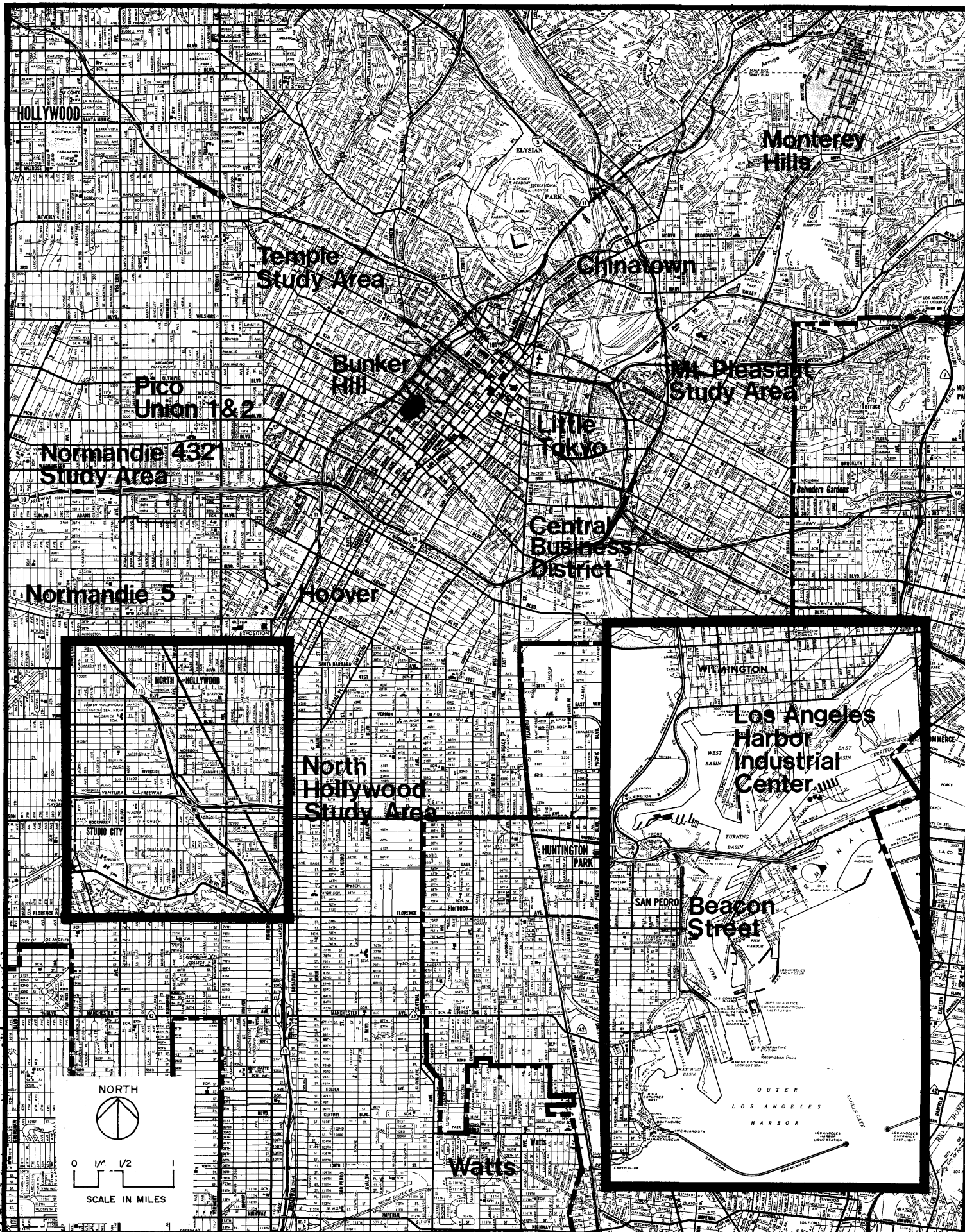
Los Angeles Drawings, Works Projects Administration, Los Angeles, 1939.

Los Angeles Fire Department Annual Reports for the years 1912-1917.

Los Angeles Fire Insurance Maps, Sanborn Map Company, New York, 1927.

Los Angeles Times, April 16, 1911, VI, 3.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. The M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, MA. Fifth printing, 1979.



LOS ANGELES REDEVELOPMENT AREAS

THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA