

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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37. (N-5747):

A. Property Name: Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company Fire Station No. 2

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description: The Fire Station No. 2 building is located at 31 Academy Street. The property being nominated includes the building and lot on which it stands, fronting 123 feet on Academy Street and with a depth of 146.45 feet on East Delaware Avenue (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, no. 20, lot no. 93).

C. Owner: Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company, 31 Academy Street, Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description:

Fire Station No. 2 of the Aetna Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company is a two story, rectangular building with secondary wings added to the north, south and east rear facades. The main block of the building and both side wings are constructed of random coursed ashlar with tooled mortar bonds. A stone water table also outlines the exterior of the building and both original and subsequent stone structures are offset by white wood trim. The gable roof of the central building features a pedimented cross gable and a frame cupola at the rear roof extension; two shed roof dormers are also located in this rear portion. Wide eaves, a boxed cornice, and a small semi-circular fanlight window are located at each north and south gable end. The two side wings each have a flat roof with full entablature. Window openings are of the six-over-six or eight-over-eight double hung sash type with either flat or segmental stone arch lintels. A central pedimented pavillion with a palladian window appears at the second story of the main west facade. Also at this position is a single story stone porch with stone pillars. The porch's stone work matches the main building and supports a full entablature topped by a plain balustrade.

E. Historical Background

The Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company was incorporated in 1889 and had its original headquarters at 26 Academy Street. In 1917, a committee was appointed to look for a new fire house since the old building was too small and the property lot on which it stood was too confined for building expansion. Four years later, in September of 1921, the trustees of the Newark Academy offered the Aetna Hose Company land at the corner of Delaware and Academy Streets. The offer was accepted, and in March of 1922 a design contract was awarded to Clarence Hope, a Wilmington architect. Actual construction of the building was executed by J.C. Willis at a cost of \$22,324, with an additional \$3,000 for heating and electrical work.

In 1941 the company purchased a new engine which proved too big to house in the station and, as a result, two additions on the north and south sides of the original building were constructed during the summer of 1941. The architect was G. Morris Whiteside and the contractor was W.S. Hawthorn and Son. Total cost of the construction was \$14,467, including architectural fees. The building was altered again in 1956 to provide room for three more engine bays at the rear of the main structure.

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Today the Aetna Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company's Station No. 2 is one of two local stations used by the City of Newark's volunteer fire company.

F. Significance:

This structure is one of two facilities built, owned and operated by the Aetna Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company, Newark's only association of volunteer firemen since 1889. Station No. 2, constructed in 1922, is a handsome example of period institutional architecture and exhibits influences of Neo-Classical building design. Additions made to the structure, primarily in 1941, are consistent with the prevailing building style and reflect the continuing importance and function of this fire station in the Newark community.

SKETCH MAP Scale 1"-100'

N-5747

Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Co. Fire Station No. 2

Property no. 2057

Lot no. 93

