

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

For HCRS use only
received **FEB 16 1984**
date entered

**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 Hoboken Firehouses & Firemen's Monument *TR*

historic _____

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number Multiple locations..please refer to individual N/A not for publication
survey forms

city, town Hoboken _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state NJ code 034 county Hudson code 017

3. Classification Present use, ownership & accessibility vary...
please refer to individual survey forms

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See Individual Survey forms)

street & number _____

city, town Hoboken _____ vicinity of _____ state NJ

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registrar of Deeds

street & number Hudson County Administration Bldg., 595 Newark Avenue

city, town Jersey City _____ state NJ

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Hoboken Historic Sites
Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 also: Survey, 1967 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of New Jersey Heritage, CN 402, Trenton, NJ 08625

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Varies.. please refer to individual forms

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

DESCRIPTION

The City of Hoboken has long been noted for its residential enclaves, industries, and as a transportation center and once-prominent port. In recent years it has also gained national attention for the residential rehabilitation and adaptive reuse projects which have helped the city maintain its 19th century appearance and scale. The very buildings which are functionally related to the preservation and protection of the city and its inhabitants from fires have gone largely unrecognized as many of them continue to be used for fire-fighting purposes.

The seven buildings and one monument forming the Hoboken Firehouses thematic grouping date from the 1870's to 1915, and present a range of architectural styles. The buildings, erected by a city that experienced a dramatic rise in population in the last quarter of the 19th century, survive as testaments to the city's expansion and changing needs. The seven extant firehouses have undergone alterations of varying degrees of reversibility but retain their overall integrity, and are being included as being Register eligible based upon their historical significance. The buildings and monument are each described in the accompanying survey forms following the nomination form.

The fire department was established by the Hoboken town committee in the year 1848. Hoboken began to experience growth after 1845, as Edwin A. Stevens, the major land owner, started constructing houses for those who were attracted by the picturesque setting and proximity to New York City. As the population grew, the Town Committee was asked to initiate a fire protection system. A fire caused by lightning occurred in the fall of 1847, destroying at least two houses on Washington Street between first and Second Streets. After the town election of the following year, the Committee was asked to take action. Property owners raised by voluntary subscription the funds with which to build an engine house and to buy a fire engine. On September 11, 1848, Engine Co. #1 was established with 66 men. The engine company was duly chartered as the fire company of the town of Hoboken at the next convening of the State Legislature. The engine house was located on the Market Square's northwest corner, which is now the location of city hall.

An early photographic view (pre 1862) shows the first firehouse on the Market Square site, with firemen posing in front of a crane-neck type of engine (this type of engine, in use until the 1890's in Hoboken, was transported manually to the scene of a fire). The two-story brick firehouse was two bays wide on its Washington Street side, and 5 bays along First Street. It had a bracketted, Italianate cornice, arched, shuttered upper story windows, centered over the engine doors. It also featured a wooden watch tower on its roof. The tower was not integrated into the design of the building,

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and appeared on the roof as a separate structure. Another such firehouse was that of Oceana #1 (founded in 1856) and Excelsior #2 (founded in 1854), both housed in a building at the southwest corner of Washington and Sixth Streets. This was also a two-story corner building, with four window bays along the Washington Street facade. Paired, arch-headed windows were centered over the engine doors, and a watch tower was located on the roof. An ornamented panelled fascia was placed in the location of a cornice.

The oldest surviving firehouse in Hoboken is thought to be 212 Park Avenue, former Engine Co. #4, and dates from the 1870's. It is a two-story brick building which is two bays wide. It has arched brick window lintels which terminate in foliated blocks, and windows with arched heads. The ground floor cast-iron piers frame a single engine door, which is flanked by a window to the south and a door to the north. The cornice has been removed, and the second story brick piers are accentuated by a molded fascia. This building has a mid-block location on a side street, unlike the previously described examples. Park Avenue was originally named Meadow Street, after the proximity to the salt marsh area to the west of the city. This area remained rural when this building was constructed, hence, it was also known as "the Meadow Company."

The Assembly of Exempt Firemen was formed as early as 1860 and used the meeting halls of other engine companies. In the early 1870's, the building at 213 Bloomfield Street was constructed for its use. It was designed by Hoboken architect Francis George Himpler in the late Italianate style. The functional nature of firehouses did not generally provide architects with many opportunities for creative displays -- the most essential requirements were those of an open ground floor plan for "apparatus," and unobstructed space for the offices and later dormitories on the upper floors to facilitate quick responses to emergencies. In the case of the Exempt Firemen's Hall, however, the architect was able to carry through a theme of aesthetic merit because the second floor was to be an assembly space. The two-story brick building has a central opening for the engine door. Unlike the other earlier firehouses the engine door aperture is arched and carries decorative insignia. The central door is flanked on the north by an entry door and on the south by a lancet window. Above the engine door are equally sized one over one segmental, arch-headed windows with ornamented keystones. Centered above the second story windows is a grouping of three lancet windows at the attic story level. The central portion of the facade terminates in a pediment with wood modillion blocks. The facade is presently painted a dark brown with white cornice and door trim. This paint scheme conceals a facade with brownstone sills and band courses of molded brick.

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A balustraded wooden stair along the northern wall of the ground floor leads to the assembly hall itself, a room the full width of the building and approximately two-thirds its length. Its woodwork reflects Northern Renaissance motifs found in other Himpler designs, such as the segmentally-arched door enframingent leading from the vestibule to the hall. The focal point of the room is the ornamental plasterwork forming the base for a chandelier. Its design has a fire-fighting theme, including ladders and a firehose which encircles the protruding lamp support.

As mentioned previously, a firehouse was located in the Market Square in the early days of the fire department. When, in 1881, the State legislature passed a law requiring municipalities to erect city halls, Hoboken elected to move its municipal offices from rented quarters and to build upon land deeded to the city by the Hoboken Land & Improvement Co. on the Market Square. At approximately this time a firehouse was built between 13th and 14th Streets on Washington Street to serve the northern waterfront. The firehouse itself was destroyed by a fire which swept through the entire block in 1888. The next major firehouse to be built was the Romanesque Revival building at 1313 Washington Street.

Engine Co. #2 dates from 1890, and is an exuberant example of the Romanesque Revival style, with Richardsonian influences. The three-story building, the city's northernmost firehouse, is located close to the corner of 14th Street, on the third lot from the corner, and is set back from the building line by 12'. The primary building material is tan stretcher bond brick. The engine door is flanked by cast-iron pilasters. The facade offers a handsome composition of balanced symmetry. Sandstone bands horizontally spanning the facade, colonnettes, piers of brick and brownstone arches set the building apart stylistically and architecturally from its surroundings. A rectangular tower rises to the fourth story level to the southern side of the building, and presents four brick piers which become pilasters at the third story level, where they terminate in brownstone foliate capitals. The tower roof and Mansard roof at the third storey are of orange terra cotta-colored pantiles. The tower is artfully incorporated into the design of the building, and the facade is by far the most architecturally complex of any firehouse built previously by the city. A limestone plaque at the third story level gives the construction date. It was designed by the Hoboken firm of French Dixon & DeSaldern. With the exception of the widening of the engine door and subsequent removal of the glass transoms above, the firehouse has retained all of its original facade features.

In 1892, a Romanesque Revival firehouse was dedicated at 501 Observer Highway (completed in 1894 to house Engine Co. #1 and Truck Co. #2. The triangular site is formed by the intersection of Newark and Madison Streets. The building is rectangular in

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plan, with a rectangular fire tower (altered) at its southeast corner. The laterally-oriented engine area provided maximum accessibility to all locations in the city, the principal ones being to the east and the northwest. The building is of orange-brown brick with brownstone trim and a granite foundation. Designed by Hoboken architect Charles Fall, it was the southernmost firehouse to be constructed in the city. Its position as the only structure on this corner site, a major commercial corridor, gave it a special type of importance which the architect successfully exploited. As the only firehouse standing that was free-standing, its four sides featured moulded brick, a carved decorative series of fascias, and a pleasing variety of materials. The rectangular tower originally terminated in a pyramidal slate roof. The area between the third story level and the roof was treated as a Romanesque arcade to suggest a belvedere. The rounded southeast corner had a conical roof (now removed) which rose to the third story level and was also presumably of slate. Although it is a visually prominent building, the exterior changes detract from its importance in the evolution of Hoboken's firehouses.

Later in 1894, a new firehouse was built for Engine Co. #1 and fire headquarters at 128 Hudson Street. Its architect is unknown, but it was designed in the Eastlake style. It was demolished in 1975 when buildings on either side were removed for a drive-in branch of the 1st Jersey Bank.

The bronze Firemen's Monument, cast by J.W. Fiske in New York City, honors the Hoboken Volunteer Fire Department. It depicts a fireman rescuing a small child, and is set upon a marble base at the northeast corner of Church Square Park.

The firehouse at 415 Grand Street, built for Engine Co. #5, is an equally distinctive style for its immediate surroundings. The three-story structure was designed by Fall & Maxon in 1898 in the Francis I style. Set in a mid-block location, it contrasts with the neighboring four-story brick rowhouses in its style, scale and materials. The facade is of a tan stretcher bond brick, the roof is copper Mansard, and has chimneys at its north and south sides. The centrally-located fire engine door is set in an elliptical arch, set off by a limestone arch with decorative keystone voussoir. Similar to other mid-block firehouses, its centrally-placed door is flanked by an equally-sized door to the south and a window to the north. The rectangular lintels of each bear decorative shields. The composition of the facade is symmetrically ordered; a single dormer at the third-story level is proportionally diminished from the windows below. A denticulated limestone band forms a cornice above the second story level, and the vertically-ribbed copper Mansard is flanked by parapets with ornamented chimneys. The dormer is capped by a triangular pediment also set off by quoining. This free-standing building is flanked

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on north and south sides by alleyways, each retaining its arched iron gates set inside overhead iron, ornamented arches. The rear of the first floor alley, according to department reports, was used to quarantine horses. The second floor of this structure was probably used as a dormitory. The design of the building gives it an almost residential character, not unlike some of the individual townhouses found on Hudson Street between 9th and 10th Streets. It has survived remarkably intact, and is now in private ownership.

The firehouse at 801 Clinton Street was built in 1907 in the Classical Revival style (architect unknown). It is a two-story structure of red brick with limestone trim. It is situated on a corner, and its principal facade faces Clinton Street. It features Ionic pilasters in the second story, which once supported a metal cornice. The ground floor retains its rusticated limestone trim with high basement on its principal facade and on three bays of the nine-bay length on the side street. This firehouse, built for Engine Co. #6, is still in active use. The removal of the cornice has severely compromised the building's architectural integrity.

The 1915, three-story firehouse at 201 Jefferson Street has the most imposing scale of the firehouses. It is on a corner site and is square in plan. This free-standing structure has a tower rising two stories above the uppermost floor on the Jefferson Street side, and was built to house Engine Co. #3. Designed by Fagan & Briscoe, the style of the building is that of the Italian Villa. The foundation is of rusticated limestone, and segmentally-arched fire engine doors exist on the south and west facades. The principal facade material is beige stretcher bond brick. The corner facades are essentially identical, with their three bays which have paired windows. The third story window bays are segmentally-arched with prominent keystones. Among the alterations which have detracted from the building's character are the removal of the denticulated cornice, the partial removal of the balustrade above it, and the masonry infill of the generous window apertures of the second floor.

This survey was conducted by Patricia Florio, a historic preservation specialist. The initial identification of the sites was made as part of a city-wide historic sites inventory begun by the Community Development Agency of Hoboken in 1978 with a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office. The concept of nominating the structures originated in 1981 and is now being completed as a thematic group.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

THE SIGNIFICANCE

The Hoboken firehouses represent a view of a specific type of municipal structure from the 1870's to 1915. In this review of the seven buildings described, an evolution of a building type emerges. The earliest buildings of the grouping show the firehouse as an unassuming two story building with a watch tower situated on its roof. Later structures are each of a distinct stylistic origin and form.

The Assembly of Exempt Firemen Hall at 213 Bloomfield Street was built as a meeting house for this important group which was organized in the 1860's. This permanent home of the Assembly was designed by Francis George Himpler, a noted German American architect who made Hoboken his second home. The building is the first which displayed a studied approach to the design of such a structure, unlike the more vernacular firehouse at 212 Park Avenue.

The 1880's and 1890's in Hoboken saw a major growth in the population, with residential structures being built in increasing numbers to the north and west areas of the city. The waterfront, once a rural and promenade area, became occupied with shipping piers to the south; drydocks and steamship companies occupied the northern reach. Ferry service to the city was augmented by the opening of the Fourteenth Street ferry in 1886. Manufacturing concerns, as well as rail services, were expanding in the 1880's also. As the use and development of the land for commercial and residential purposes continued apace, several major fires occurred. To meet increasing needs, the city strove to assure adequate fire protection.

Engine Co. #5 at 412 Grand Street was one of three firehouses planned by the city of Hoboken between 1897 and 1899. Among its distinguishing characteristics was the use of the Francis I style for the northwest area of Hoboken, the development of which had progressed steadily through the 1880's as the need for housing and industry grew to encompass even the former western salt meadow. The need for a firehouse in this location was underscored in the 1890-91 Hoboken Fire Department Annual Report by Chief Engineer Ivins D. Applegate; "the third ward is now entirely without protection against fire, as there is no company west of Washington Street nor north of Third Street. Therefore I would again require the erection of an engine house in the neighborhood of Fifth or Sixth and Grand or Adams Streets, and that a steam fire engine,

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property each property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Jersey City & Weehawken

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	5	8	1	6	0	0	4	5	1	0	0	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	8	5	8	2	1	6	0	4	5	1	1	5	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

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

D

1	8	5	8	1	0	2	0	4	5	0	9	7	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	8	5	8	1	6	0	0	4	5	1	0	1	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

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

G

1	8	5	8	1	6	0	0	4	5	1	0	8	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

1	8	5	8	1	7	2	0	4	5	1	0	3	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE INDIVIDUAL SURVEY FORMS

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Florio

organization (private consultant)

date March-
Oct., 1983

street & number 104 Pierrepont Street

wk.phone: 212-566-7580
telephone 212-596-0983

city or town Brooklyn, N.Y.

state N.Y. 11201

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.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Myers

title Director, Division of Parks & Forestry

date 2-9-84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See Continuation Sheet for Listings date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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hose wagon, horses and harness and company of firemen be placed in said house." The style chosen for the building reflects a conscious effort to interject a distinguished, unique type of municipal building in a pre-existing neighborhood of tenements and manufacturing sites. The Francis I style, and the selection of light materials, echoes several of the Castle Point Terrace mansions that were constructed in the early 1900's, as such was a forerunner of this stylistic preference in Hoboken.

The firehouse built in the last decades of the 19th century in Hoboken were unlike the vernacular, anonymously-built serviceable earlier buildings, but were seen as important expressions of municipal pride and taste. The municipal buildings were principally schools. The quarters for a town hall were rented until 1881 (the public library was not built until 1897). In the decades following the construction of the city hall, Hoboken's major civic buildings were its firehouses. These buildings were designed by local firms, many of which had other Hoboken civic commissions; i.e. Himpler designed 213 Bloomfield Street and City Hall; Fall & Maxon designed P.S. #7, as well as Engine Co. #5; and Fall designed the firehouse at 501 Observer Highway. A 1907 publication of the Hoboken Board of Trade, a History of Hoboken, served as a guidebook to the city's history and industry. The "seven fine fire houses" were included in the category of "prominent buildings." A 1913 article entitled "Hoboken's Progress" from the Board of Trade journal noted "the acquisition of new fire apparatus, both electrical and horsedrawn" as among the "notable improvements within the past few years."

In terms of their style, the firehouses represent preferences based upon both prevalent national trends as well as regional preferences. The former engine house at 212 Park Avenue in its siting, in a block of rowhouses, is a vestige of the earliest firehouses to have been constructed in the late 1840's. It has a central engine door with three window bays above. The arched brick lintels and their ornamentation suggest a vernacular Italianate influence.

The 1870's Assembly of Exempt Firemen Hall at 213 Bloomfield Street features an eclectic approach to setting the building apart from its neighbors while retaining the three story height and standard width. This firehouse achieves architectural distinction with its pedimented third story and in the variety of materials used in its construction. The principal facade material is brick, with brownstone trim and what may be limestone trim. The wood modillions of the cornice suggest other stylistic influences, but the symmetrical composition of the elements of the facade indicate

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the late Italianate style. The architect, Francis George Himpler, was fluent in the Second Empire Style and the Gothic Revival styles as well. In his later work especially, such as his home on Lake Hopatcong, this combination of the Italianate and Second Empire styles is melded with the influence of the Renaissance Revival most successfully. 213 Bloomfield Street is a seminal example of this eclecticism.

In the firehouse at 1313 Washington Street, one sees a singular architectural statement by the firm of French Dixon & DeSaldern in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Perhaps due to the fact that the building replaced an earlier structure destroyed by fire, the design of its facade features a lavish use of brick and masonry. The masonry was used, apart from its decorative potential, to evoke a sense of the weight of the materials in the deliberately rough-hewn brownstone arches and half-columns, which have an antique quality. The structure is said to have been built on land donated to the city by the Stevens family, and is set back by 12' from the building line to protect pedestrians from tobacco-spitting firemen. This concern may have been raised due to the proximity of the 14th Street ferry, established at Hudson and 14th Streets in 1886. The building represents the first time that the firetower was integrated into the overall design scheme in the city's firehouses.

A more "domesticated" Romanesque Revival styled firehouse was built in 1894 by Charles Fall at 501 Observer Highway. This building, a free-standing structure, featured the use of a rectangular and a circular tower at the corners of its southern facade. From the time of its construction, up until 1915, it was the most grand and impressively-scaled of the Hoboken firehouses.

The 1898 Engine Co. #5 at 415 Grand Street represented a return to classically-inspired symmetry as well as an introduction of an as-yet untried style on a public building in Hoboken. The firehouse was designed by the firm Fall & Maxon. It was a precursor of this and other revival styles to be built in Hoboken in the late 1890's to the pre-W.W. I era. The preference for such styles may have been due in part to the influence of eastern European families who were making Hoboken their homes in this era. Wealthy industrialists who were able to build townhouses and mansion at Castle Point Terrace, a street opened by the Stevens' adjacent to the campus of their Institute in the early 1900's, displayed a preference for this style for their homes. The city of Hoboken, in selecting this style for a firehouse in the neighborhood directly west of this area, reflected a preference for this style that was to come into vogue. As stated earlier, the building has a residential appearance, with its Mansard roof, dormer window, and chimney stacks.

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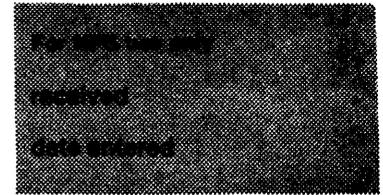
date entered

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The firehouses at 801 Clinton Street and Jefferson and Second Streets, provide yet another contrast in the range of firehouse types found in Hoboken. 801 Clinton Street is a diminutive firehouse, but is no less forthright in the Classical Revival style whereby it is defined as a public building. The Jefferson Street firehouse was apparently conceived in the same vein. The scale of this building exceeds those built previously, and is influenced by the automobile in its proportions.

The firemen's monument in Church Square Park was erected to honor the volunteer Fire Department by the citizens of Hoboken on May 30, 1891. In June of 1891, the paid fire department was established. Earlier that year, a special committee was formed to obtain a silver trowel for the laying of the cornerstone of the monument. Badge No. 22 and the names of the fire department members were placed in a box under the cornerstone of the monument, which represents a fireman holding a lantern and a small child.

This thematic application will hopefully engender a more caring attitude towards the Hoboken firehouses which are still in municipal ownership. In addition to sparking interest in their restoration, the identification of these features may also encourage a rethinking of the standard repair methods used in routine maintenance procedures in order that the special needs of the individual structures can be addressed. Local interest in the preservation of two firehouses put up by the city for auction has caused 212 Park Avenue and 412 Grand Street to be preserved, as a result of the design review restriction in the deeds. The National Register nomination of the Hoboken firehouses may result in local designation of several of the buildings described herein. It would also give an added impetus to a firehouse museum currently in planning by the Fire Department for 213 Bloomfield Street.

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Decorative cast-iron flourished during 1850-1890's when Victorian ornament was the fashion. This was a period when NY iron foundries such as J.L. Mott; Janes, Kirkland, Fowler, Beebe; and J.W. Fiske all sold urns, statuary, furniture, and cast animals in great abundance.

Ornamental ironwork was usually meant to decorate and embellish a building or large park, but occasionally cast-iron statuary and fountains in restricted settings were dominant - (small public squares, corner lots versus large city parks). Fountains often incorporated statues, but seldom were metal statues erected as independent monuments. While the use of architectural or structural cast-iron diminished in the 1880's and 90's, the popularity of ornamental iron remained fairly constant.

One particular manifestation of the ornamental iron casting was the commemorative monument. Statues of mythical characters, angels, & historical figures were typical fare, but seldom was the common man represented. Following the Civil War, soldiers monuments, often partially cast-iron, began springing up across the nation. These were lasting commemoratives to the pain & suffering of the soldiers (and their families) who had fallen in war and perhaps initially a commitment to lasting peace. Quickly, however, soldiers memorials took on heroic proportions and were often perceived as glorifying war and death.

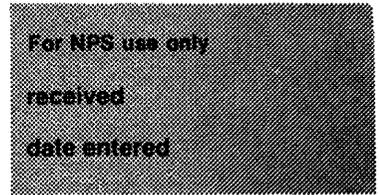
The firemen's monuments, however, although testimony to the heroism of firemen - symbolized a complete dedication to saving lives. The anonymous fireman is portrayed in complete firefighting array emerging from a burning inferno holding a frightened child. In this sense, the genre of firemen's monuments represent the first public commemorative to the common man; not an imaginary, mythical figure or a famous character, but a real person.

Interestingly, the dedication of such monuments often correlated with the creation of local professional paid fire-fighting crews, but the popular sentiment towards firemen appears sincere.

Generally, in New Jersey, only the more urban centers of the state erected monuments dedicated to firemen prior to 1920 and only a few were cast-metal firemen's statues. The metal firemen's monument in Hoboken and another in Trenton are the only two known survivors. The Trenton City Hall is listed in the National Register, but the

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fireman's statue in front is not specifically cited. Consequently, the Hoboken Firemans's Monument is a rare, commemorative survival in the state reflecting the respect and confidence the public placed in firefighters around the turn of the century.

Because of its rarity in New Jersey, artistically, the Hoboken Firemen's Monument is an important, although mass produced, example of a typical decorative public art form popular during the late 19th - early 20th centuries. According to noted cast-iron authority Margot Gayle, cast-metal firemen's statues are relatively uncommon and the Hoboken Firemen's Monument is especially valuable because it was produced by J.W. Fiske Company of NY, a major manufacturer of cast iron ornament in the last half of the 19th century.

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MAPS

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Hopkins & Co., PA, 1873, Pls. B-E.

Map of the City of Hoboken, surveyed by B. Hufnagel & E. Hexamer,
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1881)

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Historic American Buildings Survey (detail view of 1313 Washington
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Boundary

The area included in this nomination is all the property
located within the iron fence surrounding the monument. The
fence itself is included because of the visual support it lends
to the statue. Fireman's Monument is located in Church Square
Park, Bbck 191.1, Lot 1.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Hoboken Firehouses and Firemen's Monument Thematic Resources
State Hudson County, NEW JERSEY

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Assembly of Exempt Fireman Building

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper Albina Byers 3/30/84

Attest _____

2. Engine Company No. 2

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper Albina Byers 3/30/84

Attest _____

3. Engine Company No. 3

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper Albina Byers 3/30/84

Attest _____

4. Engine Company No. 4

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper Albina Byers 3/30/84

Attest _____

5. Firemen's Monument (CHURCH SQUARE PARK)

Administrative Review

for Keeper Patrick Anders 10/30/80

Attest Betty L. Savage 10/30/80

6. Engine House No. 3, Truck No. 2

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper Albina Byers 3/30/84

Attest _____

7. Engine Company No. 6

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper Albina Byers 3/30/84

Attest _____

8. Engine Company No. 5

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper Albina Byers 3/30/84

Attest _____

9.

Keeper _____

Attest _____

10.

Keeper _____

Attest _____