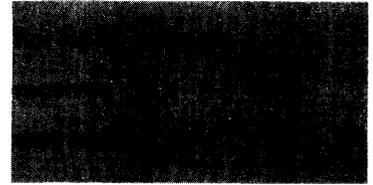


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Fire House No. 2

and/or common South Side Fire Station (old)

2. Location

street & number 201 South 30th St ___ not for publication

city, town Billings ___ vicinity of congressional district Eastern

state Montana code 30 county Yellowstone code 111

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Billings

street & number

city, town Billings ___ vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yellowstone County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Billings state Montana

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

Fire House No. 2 is a two story, full basement, red brick building that is stylistically similar to many prairie style commercial buildings of the first decade of the 1900's. A pressed tin cornice and cast stone ornament decorate the exterior. The building remains relatively original with the only alteration being the removal of the front bifolding garage doors and the openings filled with concrete block and windows.

The massing of narrow double hung sash windows on the front facade in a closely spaced pattern and framed by a continuous pannelled sill and paired-bracket cornice produces the horizontality typical to the prairie style. The parapet above the cornice is capped with a stone edge that runs the perimeter of the building as does the cornice. The windows on the second floor levels are divided into groupings by an ornamental cast stone. A similar motif is used on the columns dividing the garage doors. The ornament is a series of overlaid and stepped panels that have clusters of guttae at the bottoms.

The main floor of the station is an open garage with horse stables in the rear. The original fire station equipment included a fire auto and two teams of horses for the older horse-drawn equipment. The ceiling is a pressed metal that is still intact although covered by a fiber board. The second floor contains the firemen's quarters in the front and fire chief's apartment in the rear. There was a brass fire pole in the front quarters that gave quick access to the downstairs. It has been removed and is located in the fire department headquarters museum on 8th Avenue North in Billings. There is also a side entrance on the southwest side of the building that enters a stair tower to the upstairs. The upstairs bunks in the sleeping area are still intact as well as the lounge area. While relatively intact, the fire station is in need of maintenance to prevent deterioration from occurring.

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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates June 1911 **Builder/Architect** Curtis E. Ohme

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Significant under Criteria A & C

Fire House No. 2, completed in June, 1911 is both architecturally and historically significant to the City of Billings. It is the second permanent fire station to be built in Billings and the oldest extant fire station building.

The history of Fire House No. 2 originates with the Maverick Hose Company, a volunteer company that started on January 14, 1889. The first permanent fire station was established by the company in January of 1903 at the new City Hall. The Maverick Hose Co. supplied both the volunteer and paid firemen for Billings and had the distinction of being one of the best run and equipped companies in the state. During the first decade of 1900 the city grew rapidly and the need for a second permanent station was recognized.

The city became too large for one station to handle, so bonds were voted at the spring election of 1910 for a new fire station to be built on South 13th Street and 2nd Avenue. An order was placed for a large triple combination fire automobile to equip it with. The station was completed in June 1911, and four more paid men were added to the Department, for a total of ten full paid men with Mr. Thomas F. Kennedy as Chief. The paid firemen served continuously day and night and were always on duty, except for one day off each week.

The paid department was assisted at all general alarm fires by the Maverick Hose Co., which in addition to the paid members, numbered about 25 active members. The employees were all members of the Maverick Hose Co. and when men were put in the paid department they were selected by the Chief from the ranks of the volunteer company. This way the new men were experienced firemen when they were placed in the payroll.

The Fire House No. 2 is a two story brick building that housed the fire chief's apartment on one half of the second story and the firemen's quarters in the other half. The main floor was used as the garage for the fire auto and various horse drawn equipment. The rear of the building contained a feed storage area and stables for the two horse teams, which were named Rock and Rye, and Denver and Jeff.

The building exterior is an architectural departure from the buildings that were typical to turn-of-the-century Billings. The Fire House is of the Prairie Style with abstracted Greek Revival ornament. The closely spaced windows and continuous cornice give the building an appearance of horizontality typical of many prairie style buildings. The continuous band created by the cast stone sill below the front windows and similar sills on other windows enhance the horizontal appearance. The vertical details of cast stone placed between window sections and openings on the exterior tie the verticality of the windows and doors into the overall horizontal pattern of design, creating a prairie style commercial looking building. The Fire House No. 2 is the only building of this style-type in the Billings area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Billings Gazette: Finance Committee Report November 1, 1910
 History of the Maverick Hose Company and Present Officers Sept. 1, 1911

10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED** **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 3 T.1S. R.26E.
 Quadrangle name Billings West, MT Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
 UMT References

A	1 2	6 94 1 00	5 07 2 15 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification
 The property is 60 by 150 feet rectangular lot located at the northwest corner of 30th Street South and Second Avenue at 201 South 30th, Billings, Montana.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John M. Devit/ Jonathan Hayt, State Historical Architect
 organization Montana Historical Society date 1/2/80
 street & number 225 North Roberts telephone 406-449-4584
 city or town Helena state Montana 59601

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
 title [Signature] date 1/3/80
 For NCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 for [Signature] date 1-29-80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: [Signature] date 1-31-80
 Chief of Registration

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 23 1980

DATE ENTERED

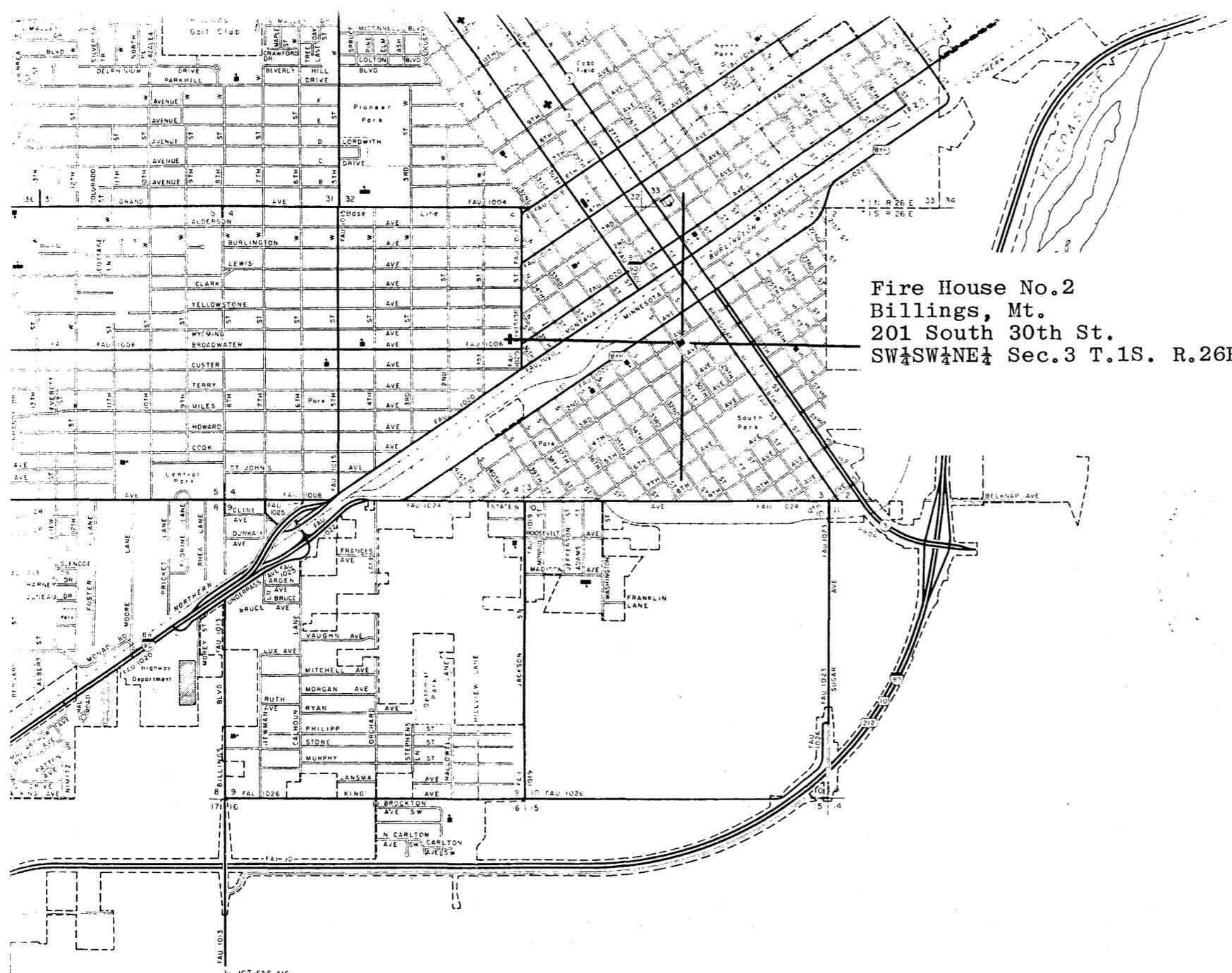
FEB 29 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

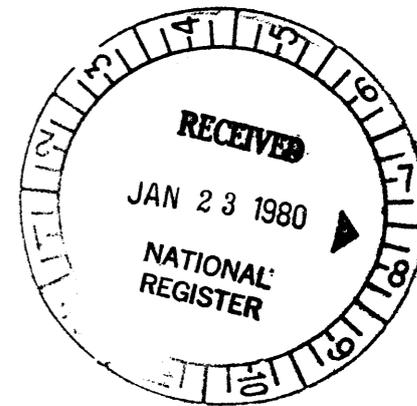
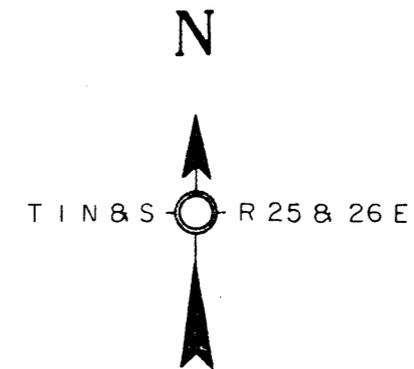
ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

The Fire House No. 2 is the direct product of the early growth period of turn-of-the-century Billings where the City grew from a frontier boom town to a stable civilized city. The Maverick Hose Company of the period when city services were often run through private initiative is now defunct, and the city fire department has replaced horse drawn equipment with modern fire engines. The Fire House was abandoned in 1965 when the city completed their new fire station. The Salvation Army used the building for several years and there are now plans for rehabilitating it into a children's drama center and a Mexican-American Community Center.



Fire House No.2
 Billings, Mt.
 201 South 30th St.
 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec.3 T.1S. R.26E.



CITY PLAT
BILLINGS
 YELLOWSTONE COUNTY
MONTANA

1970 CENSUS 61,581

