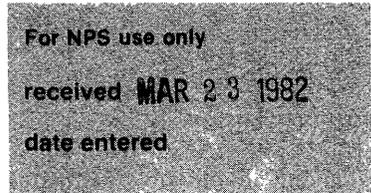


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36. (N-5749):

A. Property Name: Aetna Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company, Fire Station No. 1

B. Location and Verbal Boundary Description: The Aetna Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company Fire Station No. 1 is located on the west side of Academy Street number 26, between the intersections of East Main Street and East Cleveland Avenue. the property being nominated includes the building and lot on which it is situated, the latter with a frontage of 48 feet on Academy Street and a depth of 62 feet (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, no. 20, lot no. 48).

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

D. Property Description:

Number 26 Academy Street, or Fire Station No. 1, is a two story rectangular structure with two main bays at the east front gable end facade. The exterior walls are built of exposed American common bond brick construction with a 7 to 1 repeat, and have white wood trim. Pressed tin siding at the east gable end is painted white and resembles fish-tail wooden shingles. The roof has wide eaves and notched brackets, also at the front gable end. The first floor levels has a single door with nine lights at the southeast corner facade; a header lintel and modified brickwork above the door suggest some structural modification at this opening since the building's first construction. A large, top hinged garage door is located at the north bay of the ground level facade. Above the first floor opening is a large exposed cast-iron lintel, painted white, which is lettered "Aetna Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company." A center three window opening is located at the second story level with three two-over-two windows enclosed by a single span wood sill and a stretcher bond segmental arch lintel.

E. Historical Background:

The Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company was organized on December 17, 1888 at the request of the town Council of Newark. Active members of the Company were initially charged dues of one dollar to help defray the cost of uniforms. By February of 1889, a charity ball was held to help raise additional money for needed equipment, including a hand drawn horse cart and a cotton hose. In the spring of the same year, Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company appointed a committee to explore the possibility of constructing a building to house the newly acquired equipment. On November 8, 1889, members voted to buy a 22' X 65' lot on Academy Street from Mr. William A. Miller at a cost of \$500.00. The Company was officially incorporated on December 13, 1889, with fifty-seven charter members, and on January 15, 1890 the members accepted a bid from Joseph T. Willis to construct a building on the Academy Street lot. The cost of the new building was \$2,392.00. Since its original construction, the Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company building has served as the city's police station and at present houses Aetna's ambulances. The fire company relocated in the 1920's to larger quarters at 31 Academy Street, and subsequently expanded its facilities to include a building on Ogletown Road.

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F. Significance:

The No. 26 Academy Street building was erected in 1890 and provided the City of Newark with its first and only fire station until the 1920's. The building represents one of several public works and safety facilities which were first undertaken in Newark at the close of the nineteenth century. The Aetna Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company No. 1 station also remains little changed since its original construction.

SKETCH MAP Scale 1"-100'

N-5749
Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder
Co. Fire Station No.1

Property no. 20 36
Lot no. 48

