

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

MAR 10 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bangor Fire Engine House No. 6
other names/site number Center Street or Montgomery Street Fire Station

2. Location

street & number 284 Center Street
city, town Bangor,
state Maine code ME county Penobscot code 019 zip code 04401

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked), public-local, public-State, public-Federal
Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] S.H.P.O.
Date: 3/4/88
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

In my opinion, the property meets (unchecked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[checked] entered in the National Register.
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register
[Signature]
Date of Action: 4-7-88

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Fire Station

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health Care: Other; Rehabilitation Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Beaux Arts: Beaux Arts Classicism

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls Brick and Stucco (Second-Story)

roof Slateother Wood Roof Trim; Granite Basement
Coping

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Center Street Fire Station typifies the institutional designs of its talented architect in presenting stylistic elements from a number of sources in a pleasing and individual synthesis perfectly tailored to its function and site. A load-bearing masonry building, the fire station has a low, slightly flared, hip roof having a flaring slated cupola base behind its forward plane. All the detailing except the basement coping, which is of granite, is worked in brick: recessed round-head door and window archivolts, brick quoins and rusticated second-story brick window frames matching the quoins. The round heads of the first-floor windows contained fanlights (these endure, having been boarded over) and the two paneled engine doors had glass panes in a continuation of the fanlight motif. The quoins, fanlights, rusticated window frames and now-missing cupola attached the building to the classicizing Beaux-arts style as does the Flemish bond of the first-story brick walls. However, the recessed round arched first-story windows and doors evoke the architect's enduring affection for the Romanesque Revival, and the stucco finish of the second story attaches the building to his work in the Old English and Arts and Crafts Styles (the Charles C. Emerson House and St. Mary's Convent, both Bangor, are examples of Wilfred E. Mansur's Old English designs and the George I Mansur and Alfred J. Robinson Houses are fine examples of his Arts and Crafts designs). The low massing of the building and overhanging eaves (the procession of shallow brackets a favorite motif in Mansur's work in which he paid homage to Bangor's distinguished Italianate past) also shows the influence of the contemporary Prairie Style which is seen more openly in the architect's Bangor Theological Seminary Gymnasium (in National Register and Bangor Theological Seminary Historic District).

The interior of the building, with painted brick walls and round-arch brick lintels on the first floor, unpainted brick on the second, and tongue-in-groove ceilings, is extremely simple because of its original function. Nevertheless, these spaces are bathed in a lovely light and amplitude as is characteristic in Mansur's work.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1902

Significant Dates
1902

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Mansur, Wilfred E.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Center Street Fire Station is significant as an exceptionally well designed institutional building by the important Maine architect Wilfred E. Mansur (1855-1921), many of whose other institutional buildings of the same era have been demolished. It is also of significance because it has been a much loved and functioning landmark in its neighborhood since it was built. The station meets criterion C.

Fire Station No. 6 fits squarely into the sequence of public buildings designed by Mansur from 1895 to about 1907. Many of these buildings were schools, and in Bangor, it should be pointed out, all schoolhouses of four or more rooms in this era, as well as "suburban" schoolhouses, were designed by Mansur, who was second in reputation only to John Calvin Stevens in Maine./1 This sequence of public buildings included two fire stations, the State Street Fire Station (1897) as well as the subject property, and the Bangor Theological Seminary Gymnasium (1894-95). Each of these designs shows a careful relationship of the structure to its neighborhood, as well as to its function.

The Center Street Fire Station is a classicizing design with an overall aspect of breadth rather than height, matching its location on a hill in a developing district of middle class houses. This impression of breadth is achieved by its low hipped and over-hanging roof, and by the unified emphasis given the all-brick first story with its recessed round-head openings (the round arch was a recurrent much-favored motif in Mansur's work, even in quite Beaux-Arts designs) which contrasts with the paneled effect of the second story with its stucco facing. A similar effect is created by Mansur's Theological Seminary Gymnasium where influence from the Prairie Style is quite apparent, and the Fire Station manifests a little of the same stylistic influence.

The Center Street Fire Station has been carefully maintained and served its original function until May, 1987 when a new fire station was put into service. Over the years it became more and more difficult to accommodate modern firefighting equipment in a building designed originally for horse-drawn engines. It was eventually decided to allow the building to pass into the private sector where it could be re-used because any further alterations would have destroyed its exterior. Significantly. The building was nominated first as a Historic Landmark under the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Industrial Journal, February, 1902 and August, 1903; Mayor's Annual Report of The City of Bangor 1902-03; Deborah Thompson, Bangor Maine, 1769-1914: An Architectural History (Orono, Maine: University of Maine Press, 1988 [in press, to appear January, 1988], 478, 494.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

University of Maine at Orono;
Bangor Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Center Street Fire Station is located at the northwest corner of Center and Montgomery Streets on the east side of Bangor, Maine on the lot designated number 94 on tax map number 38 of the City of Bangor.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Center Street Fire Station embraces the corner lot historically associated with the building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deborah Thompson, Ph.D., Architectural Historian/Consultant

organization Bangor Historic Preservation Commission date November, 1987

street & number 117 Norfolk Street telephone Res.:207/947-8016; Off.:942-8261

city or town Bangor, state Maine zip code 04401

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

certified Bangor Historic Preservation ordinance.

During its eighty-five years of service, the Center Street Fire Station has been a much loved focal point in the neighborhood, and generations of small children have been welcomed by firemen who showed them around and let them slide down the brass pole. Its polished and deferential design have made it a much appreciated landmark in the Little City neighborhood which grew up around it.

/1 As an indication of Mansur's prolific practice, which is beyond the scope of this nomination, in 1902, the year the Center Street Fire Station was built, Mansur was responsible for the design of the Penobscot County Courthouse, the main building and a dormitory at Higgins Classical Institute, Charleston, the new First Street School, the N. M. Jones House, a brick storehouse for J. Parkhurst & Son, and an Exchange Street commercial building for the Stetsons.