

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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JUL 25 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Fire Station No. 2
other names/site number El Mecca Shrine Club

2. Location

street & number 716 Commercial Street not for publication
city, town Waterloo vicinity
state IA code IA-19 county Black Hawk code 013 zip code 50703

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | _____ | _____ sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | _____ | _____ structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | _____ | _____ objects |
| | | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing:
Multiple Properties Nomination, Waterloo, Iowa

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 does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] July 13, 1988
Signature of certifying official Date
Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets 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:

entered in the National Register. Beth Boland 11/29/88
 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government-fire station

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Fraternal Hall/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Renaissance Revival/Romanesque Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation ?

walls brick

roof composition

other decorative stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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/Social History

Significant Person

Period of Significance

1907

Significant Dates

1907

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ralston, John G., Architect

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 9.2

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Original Plat, Waterloo West, northwest 2/3 of Lot 2, Block 9.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Contains only subject building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Research/writing by Barbara Beving Long, Midwest Research

name/title James E. Jacobsen, Chief
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date July 13, 1988
street & number 600 E. Locust telephone 515-281-4137
city or town Des Moines state IA zip code 50309

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 25 1976

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Fire Station No. 2

Description

Like many American fire stations of the period, the Waterloo fire station (1907) was conceived as a proud representative of civic progress. The only remaining early fire station in Waterloo, Fire Station No. 2 displays an eclectic combination of Renaissance and Romanesque Revival influences. Large smooth columns with foliated capitals support a broad heavy entablature. Heavy simple brackets seem to support the projecting course which forms a strong demarcation, a feature of the Renaissance Revival. For the second and attic stories, dark red-brown brick combines with lighter stone for a polychromatic effect and a textural richness typical of the Romanesque Revival. This building is an example of the Property Types, Industrial Era Institutional Buildings and Works by Local Architects as set forth in the Multiple Properties Cover Document, Historical and Architectural Resources of Waterloo, Iowa.

First floor ornamentation is concentrated at the capitals and entablature. The first floor contrasts strongly with those above it, both in materials and design. Carved panels along the otherwise smooth entablature echo the floral and arabesque motifs of the capitals. A row of dentils is tucked beneath the projecting course. A grey painted steel beam forms the bottom of the course. Small square panels occur just above the unadorned brackets. The year of construction, 1907, is carved in a panel near the entrance, and a stone plaque below the attic window announces, "Fire Station No. 2".

It is likely that Carl H. Moline, Waterloo's best known stone cutter, was responsible for the decorative stonework. Moline frequently worked on John G. Ralston projects, and Ralston was architect for the fire station. Moline had established his stoneworks by 1904, and the business was located just a block from the fire station, also on Commercial Street.

Contrasting strips of stone emanate from and outline the upper windows. They also march up and across the facade, providing an arresting pattern. The geometric designs--a contrast with the organic motifs below--continue in the squares of window panes and in the parapet treatment, which originally featured a stepped central portion over the centered attic window.

With the exception of one of the two brass fire poles, the interior has been completely changed to accommodate the needs of the Shrine organization, which runs a restaurant and bar on the first floor. The newel and handrail for stairs to the second floor are original, but solid panels have replaced what was probably an open balustrade. The former hose-drying space, which extends to the second floor, has been converted to a dumb waiter. When they took ownership in 1976, the Shriners added a narrow concrete block addition to the rear and extending from the kitchen. An inappropriate (chalet-like) gabled rear entrance and some board-and-batten-type siding has been added to the rear. Some windows have been covered over.

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Changes to the principal facade are confined to the ground floor. A canopy now marks the entrance, which has a new door and probably a covered transom. The entry, once to the captain's office, also has a window now covered with a panel. Panels (beige and covered with small stones) also cover the larger space between the columns. Here were originally two sets of wood double doors for the fire wagons. The present single set of double doors may be one of the original sets. They are presently painted with scenes related to the Shrine, present occupants. It is known that the City altered fire truck doors on another early (not extant) station to accommodate larger trucks, and it is possible that the same change occurred at Fire Station No. 2. Small sections are missing from two of the capitals. A small red fire alarm box (not original) from the Gamewell Company, Newton, Massachusetts, has been affixed to the wall by the entrance.

The small central parapet has been removed, the attic window covered, and the double hung windows replaced with metal storm windows. A wood frame dwelling and later a small brick commercial building once stood next to (northwest side) the fire station, but this space now provides parking.

The fire station is located on the first major street along the west bank of the Cedar River in Waterloo. With its urban location in the heart of downtown Waterloo, its design owes more to storefront or commercial design than to residential influences seen in somewhat later fire house types, based on Rebecca Zurier's 1982 The American Firehouse.

Historical significance

Fire Station No. 2 is of distinctive design and is a good example of two Property Types, Industrial Era Institutional Buildings in Waterloo, 1892-1917 and Works by Local Architects, 1900-1932 (John G. Ralston) (see pp. 16-18, 25-27, 40-41, and 43-35, Multiple Properties Nomination). Buildings related to the former property type are associated with the civic and institutional development of Waterloo during the industrial era. The fire station calls attention to the parallel development and provision of public services in Waterloo, a product of the intense east-west rivalry. It also illustrates the increasing responsibilities the City assumed as population and industry grew and required additional services and amenities during the industrial era.

The provision of services such as fire protection and water and sewer service marked the evolution from private companies to public responsibility for services and amenities. Private fire companies, which combined monthly socializing, bright uniforms, and shiny equipment with fire fighting, dated from 1861 in Waterloo. In that year the Waterloo Hook & Ladder Company, No. 1, organized with forty active members. Other fire companies followed, including German Hook & Ladder Company of 1867 and Red Jack Engine. City funds were often used for the construction materials for an engine house, while the hose company provided the labor.

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At the turn of the century, the City of Waterloo commanded sufficient size and resources to assume responsibility for such hitherto privately run services as water and fire protection. The paid fire department was organized under the leadership of Chief Ashley A. Dunham in July of 1904. Temporary buildings, at East 5th and Mulberry and 622 Commercial Street, initially housed teams of horses and hose wagons. And in the first decade of the twentieth century the city built its first two fire stations, one on either side of the river. None of the many early engine houses of these early social groups have survived. Fire Station No. 1., built in 1904, was razed in 1977.

Built in 1907-08, Station No. 2 served the west side and is the only remaining early fire station. The yearend building report for 1908 is not available, although other sources give 1908 as the year of occupancy. The year "1907" is carved above the entrance. The earliest datable photograph is from 1910. Sanborn fire insurance maps show no fire station in 1906, but it is present in 1910.

By 1912 the City had twenty-six firemen housed in the two stations. Fire Stations No. 1 and No. 2 were in use until 1969 when five new stations were built. Two other existing stations remained in service, for a total of seven. By 1971 Black Hawk County used Fire Station No. 2 as an office for issuing food stamps. In 1976 El Mecca Shrine bought the building and converted it to a restaurant and club, a continuing use.

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Sources

Fire Station No. 2

"Waterloo Fire Department." Fire Department file, Grout Museum

Waterloo Courier, April 23, 1916, June 20, 1954, January 19, 1969, January 17, 1971,
September 11, 1977.

Fred G. Miller, Comp., History of the Police and Fire Departments. Waterloo, Iowa.
1920. n. p., p. 33.

Waterloo City Directories, 1888-89, 1897-98, 1901-02.

History of Black Hawk County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1878, pp. 406-9.

Auditor's Office Records.

Assessor's Office Records.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1906, 1910.

Long, Barbara Beving. "Waterloo. The Factory City of Iowa." Architectural and historic
sites survey for City of Waterloo," 1986. Chapters 3 and 10.

Postcard collection, Grout Museum.

Atlas of Black Hawk County, Iowa. Des Moines: Iowa Publishing Co., 1910.

"Waterloo. 1910-1911," p.6.