

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Engine House No. 10
other names Old Engine House No. 10

2. Location

street & number 1341 Maryland Avenue, NE not for publication
city or town Washington, DC vicinity
state District of Columbia code DC county _____ code 001 zip code 20002

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

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): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____
Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Firehouses in Washington, D.C.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

VACANT/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Not visible
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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Description Summary:

Engine House No. 10 is a late Victorian, Queen Anne-style firehouse constructed in 1894 and located mid-block along the south side of the 1300 block of Maryland Avenue, NE on Capitol Hill. The small-scale, two-story firehouse is compatible with its residential neighbors; it is a semi-detached building occupying three city lots and abutting a pair of two-story dwellings to its west and an alley/driveway to the east providing access to the rear of the historic firehouse. Although the former firehouse has been altered, namely in the replacement of one of its original apparatus doors, and sits vacant and in deteriorating condition, the building still stands as an excellent example of the firehouse as a building type and still provides a valuable and palpable sense of the past.

General Description:

The two-story, red brick Engine Company 10 firehouse building was designed by noted architect Leon Dessez in a relatively ornate Queen Anne style of architecture characterized by intricate brick and terra cotta work. The building is divided into two bays, defined by large apparatus doors on the first story and large arched window openings on the second story. A central gable rises above an ornate frieze, identifying the building as "Engine House No. 10" in the tympanum. The two bays are divided vertically by wide, giant-order brick pilasters spanning the first and second stories. On the first story, a single, wood paneled pedestrian entry door is located on center of the building, cut into the giant order brick pilaster on-center of the building. To either side are the apparatus doors, framed at the building's corners by the end piers or pilasters. The eastern door is the original fire apparatus door and consists of a wide pair of wood paneled doors with a honeycomb pattern in the lower half and single wood panels in the upper half. The western apparatus door has been replaced with a roll-up style garage door. Historically, the base of the giant-order pilasters consisted of striated bands of red brick and white limestone, as shown in a 1911 photograph. The limestone has since been painted red or replaced, thus obliterating the high Victorian aesthetic of polychromy on the building's principal façade.

The second story of the building rises above a wide, plain frieze capped by an ornately carved ovolo molding. The second story is defined by its two large brick arches within which are set two pairs of single window openings. The arches are framed by brick voussoirs laid in a soldier course manner and framed by brick molding formed by hand molded brick. Unornamented half-round panels fill in the tympanum space between the window tops and bottom arches. The giant-order pilaster capitals, on either-end and on-center of the façade, serve as imposts from which the arches spring. The capitals are ornately carved terra cotta. Between the arches and above the

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center pilaster capital is a limestone tablet, having a temple-front shape and carved with the building's date of construction "Erected 1894."

Above the second story level rises an ornate cornice, consisting first of a terra cotta frieze of rosettes, and above that a deep, brick corbelled cornice stepping out multiple levels. A central gable rising on-center above the cornice contains the inscription "Engine House No. 10." A wood box cornice caps the projecting gable roofline.

The west side of the firehouse abuts the two-story row house, while the east side opens onto a driveway or alley. The rear of the firehouse extends to the rear of the lot where it fronts onto a rear cross-alley. The east side wall is brick with single window openings throughout. The side wall is currently covered with ivy and other vegetation, and the rear elevation wall is completely consumed by it. A chain link fence closes off the alley leading to the rear of the firehouse, having replaced an older brick wall and wooden gates.

The firehouse is currently vacant and was not inspected on the interior. After its closure in 1940, the building served as a community center, then as offices for several years before it was vacated.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1894-95

Significant Dates

1894-95

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Leon Dessez

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The context for firehouses is described in the National Register Multiple Property Document: *Firehouses in Washington, D.C.: 1806-1945*. The context developed in this multiple property document divides the approximately 150-year history of firehouses in the city into four periods, distinguished by the organization of firefighting operations and technology, by architectural style, and by who was responsible for the design of the buildings. The study includes Engine House 10 as one of the last of the city's remaining Victorian firehouse (1864-1897) buildings.

Constructed in 1894-1895, Engine House No. 10 meets Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register. The building is significant as one of a series of eight District firehouses designed by Leon Emile Dessez (1858-1919), a leading architect in the city and an active member in the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Engine House 10, with its decorative brick and terra cotta work, survives as one of the best and most characteristic examples of a Victorian-era firehouse still owned by the District of Columbia.

Despite some painting, window and door replacements, Engine House 10 is well preserved, having retained its overall exterior character, appearance and details. The Period of Significance for Engine House 10 is 1894-1895, representing the building's original date of construction.

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Resource History and Historic Context:

Building History:

As inscribed on its façade, Engine House 10 was erected in 1894 (but not complete until its July 1895 opening) to serve the Stanton Park neighborhood, the northern portion of Capitol Hill, and the emerging suburban subdivisions of Trinidad and Ivy City. The 1887 G.M. Hopkins map of the area shows the immediate neighborhood to be sparsely developed with modest houses indicating that the firehouse was built in anticipation of future development. Indeed, by 1903, according to the Sanborn fire insurance map of the area, the neighborhood had grown into a middle-class neighborhood, with more than 50% of its lots built upon with sizeable row house residences.

The Engine House 10 was designed by architect Leon Emile Dessez, who was responsible for eight of the city's firehouse—the largest number of firehouse commissions awarded to any one architect in the city. Dessez (1858-1919), eclectic in his influences and tastes, changed with the times and is perhaps best known in D.C. for his design for the Superintendent's House at the

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Naval Observatory, now known as “Admiralty House” and home of the U.S. Vice President. He also designed Miner Normal School (1913-14) at Howard University; the Stoddert Apartment in Georgetown (1899); the Elkton apartments on Capitol Hill (1905); the Cady-Lee House in Takoma Park, MD.; and St. James Episcopal Church in Leesburg (1895-1897). Leon Dessez was also the in-house architect for the Chevy Chase Land Company and was responsible for the design of the company’s several model homes, as well as many of the private residences within the streetcar suburb.

Engine Company 10 served its immediate and larger community for more than forty years until 1940. In that year, the fire department experienced a major restructuring and Engine Company 10 was merged with Truck Company 13 at 1342 Florida Avenue, NE. At that time, the firehouse on Maryland Avenue, NE was vacated, though it was used for a time as a community center and small offices. Engine House 10 has been vacant since at least 2001.

Leon Emile Dessez (1858-1918):

Leon Emile Dessez was a prominent Washington, DC-based architect who is most well-known as the director and chief architect of the Chevy Chase Land Company from its founding in 1892 until his death in 1918. After studying architecture, Leon Dessez began apprenticed with local architects Hornblower & Poindexter, where he worked on plans for the Washington Navy Yard. In 1886, Dessez opened his own office and became one of the founding members of the American Institute of Architects. Although he specialized in large houses, such as the Francis Newlands’s house on Chevy Chase Circle and the Admiral’s House (now the Vice President's House) on Observatory Circle, he designed many other building types, including several of the city’s firehouses, hospitals and hotels.

Integrity

Despite its alterations and its vacant and deteriorating condition, Engine House 10 retains integrity. The building is readily recognizable as a firehouse, and more particularly as one of the last of the city’s Victorian-era firehouses. The building retains the characteristics of this sub-type in its domestic scale, firehouse doors, its brick construction and its high degree of ornamentation and craftsmanship. The interior of the building was not inspected due to government bureaucracy; however, it is not necessary that the interior remain intact to its original configuration or retain its original features in order for the building to maintain its integrity of design.

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Major Bibliographical References:

Baist's Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, DC. Philadelphia: GW Baist, (Vol. 3) 1896, 1903, 1919, 1925, 1931, 1937, 1945, 1954, 1960, 1968, (Vol. 4) 1927, 1936, 1943, 1959.

Baldwin Memorial Archives, American Institute of Architects Library.

Berk, Sally L. "The History of Washington, DC's Pre-World War II Firehouses," DC Historic Preservation Division, June 1992.

Biographical Vertical Files, Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

Bushong, William, Judith Helm Robinson, and Julie Mueller. A Centennial History of the Washington Chapter, the American Institute of Architects, 1887-1987. Washington, DC: The Washington Architectural Foundation Press, 1987.

Commission of Fine Arts Minutes. Record Group 66, National Archives.

District of Columbia Archives, Record Group 17, the Department of Public Works, Engineering Department Files, 1897-1953, Part VI: Engine Houses, Box 63.

District of Columbia Fire Department. "Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Honoring D.C.'s Black Men & Women in Blue." Program, July 13, 1985.

Fire Fighters' Association. One Hundred Years of Glory: A History of the District of Columbia Fire Department, 1871-1971. Washington, D.C.: Mt. Vernon Publishing Company, Inc., 1971.

Glass, Darlene and Claude. Video, "History of Engine Company No. 21," n.d.

Holmes, Theodore, Chief. Interview, October 10, 1991.

Kohler, Sue A. The Commission of Fine Arts, A Brief History, 1910-1976. Washington, D.C.: The Commission of Fine Arts, 1984.

McCarl, Robert. The District of Columbia Fire Fighter's Project, A Case Study in Occupational Folklife. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1985.

Vertical Files. "Fire Department: Engine Houses, 1815-1929, 1930-1939, 1940-1959."

Washington Perspectives, Incorporated. "Firehouse Building Survey," DC Department of Housing and Community Development, 1986.

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Withey, Henry R. and Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

Zurier, Rebecca. The American Firehouse: an Architectural and Social History. New York: Abbeville Press, Inc., 1982.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5,485 square feet

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Berk/Architectural Historian (prepared 2001); Kim Williams/Architectural Historian (edited 2008)
Organization The Capitol Fire Museum/D.C. Historic Preservation Office date August 17, 2008
street & number 801 North Capitol Street, NE telephone 202 442-8840
city or town Washington, D.C. state District of Columbia zip code 20002

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- X A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- X A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- X Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name District of Columbia Fire Department
street & number 441 4th Street, NW telephone _____
city or town Washington, D.C. state District of Columbia zip code 20001

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The Engine House No. 10 occupies lot 830 in Square 1028 in Washington, D.C.

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Boundary Justification:

The Engine House No. 10 has occupied lot 830 since its construction in 1894-95.

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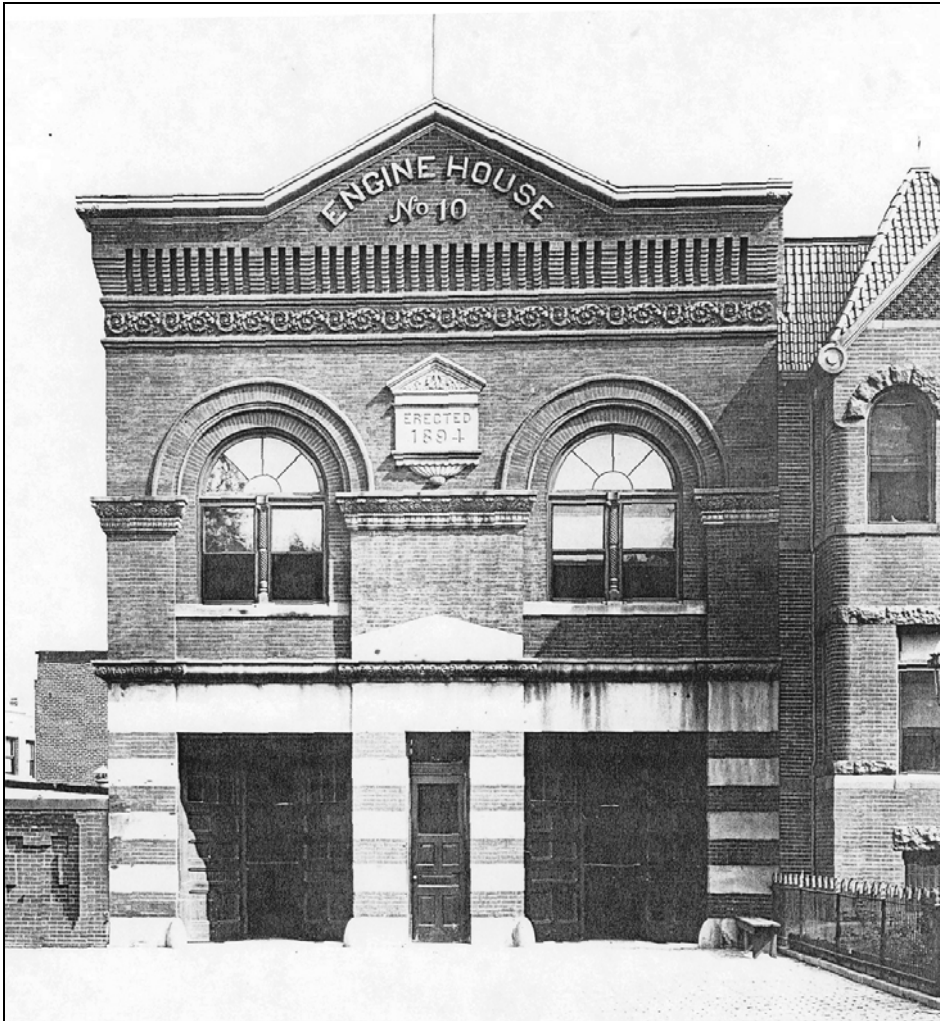
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HISTORIC PHOTOS



Historic Photo of Engine House No. 10 (circa 1911)
(From the Collection of Jackson Gearhart)

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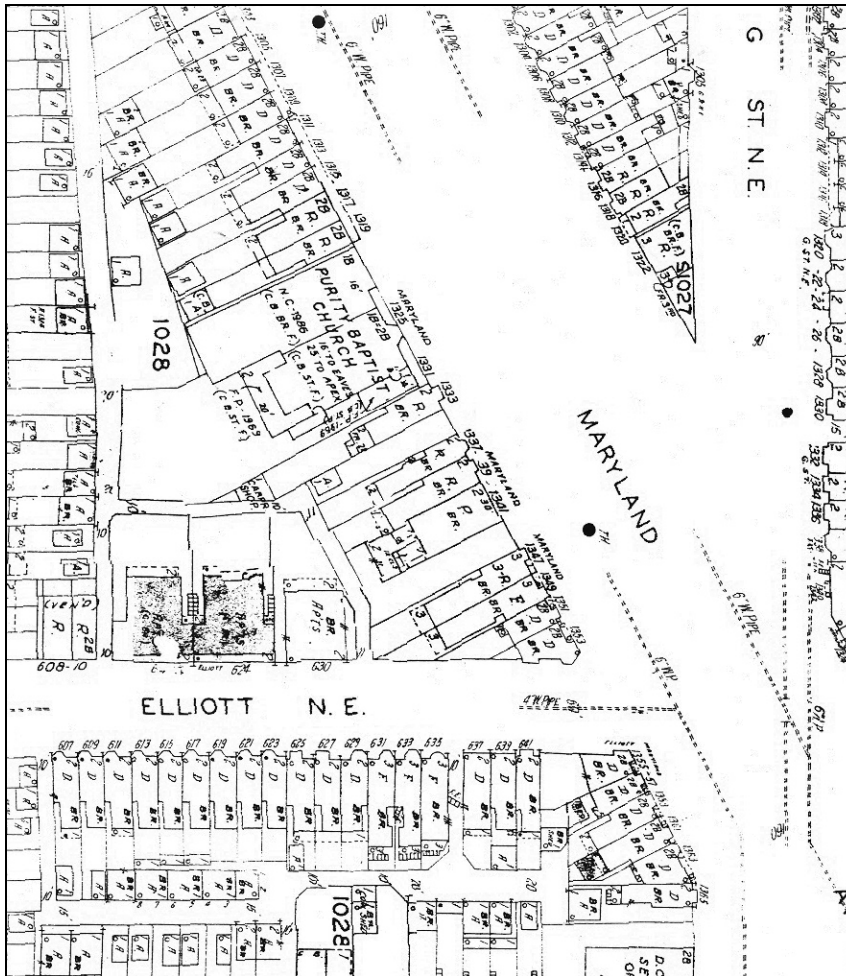
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SITE MAP



Engine House No. 10
1341 Maryland Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C.
(From Sanborn Map, 1991)

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is common to all photographs:

Engine House No. 10
1341 Maryland Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C.
Kim Williams, photographer
September 2008
DC Historic Preservation Office (DC HPO)

- 1) Streetscape looking south showing north elevation
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- 2) View looking west showing streetscape
2 of 5
- 3) North elevation; view looking east
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- 4) South and east elevations; view looking west
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- 5) North elevation; view looking south
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