

**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 Company 21  
other names Truck Company 9

**2. Location**

street & number 1763 Lanier Place, N.W.  not for publication  
city or town Washington, D.C.  vicinity  
state District of Columbia code DC County \_\_\_\_\_ code 001 zip code 20001

**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:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

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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
1		structures
		objects
2		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., 1806-1945

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Firehouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

GOVERNMENT/Firehouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

20th CENTURY REVIVAL/Spanish Mission Revival  
Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Foundation	Brick
walls	Stucco
roof	Tile
other	

**Narrative Description**

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

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Engine Company 21

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## Description Summary:

Engine Company 21/Truck Company 9 is located at the middle of the long block of Lanier Place, N.W. in the Lanier Heights neighborhood in northwest Washington, D.C. Constructed in 1908, the dual engine company and truck company firehouse is designed in a picturesque Spanish Mission Revival style characterized by its stucco wall surfaces, its campanile and its Moorish front gable. The building is set upon a low brick foundation, is covered with a red tile roof and other than the off-center hose tower, has a symmetrical arrangement of window and door openings. The design of the firehouse is attributed to Appleton P. Clark, but it may have been the result of a collaboration with James G. Hill, the architect of the Ontario Apartments located in proximity to the firehouse.

## General Description:

### Exterior:

The southeast (front) elevation of the firehouse is divided into three bays, but dominated by a large central bay holding two large apparatus doors on the first story and a bank of three windows above those doors on the second story. Historically, the firehouse doors had double wood door opening with 16-light window panes above lower panels, all set within brick segmental arched openings. Two single doors, also set within segmental arched surrounds of contrasting red brick, are located to either side of these central apparatus doors. At the second story level, the group of three windows consists of a single, larger French door on center flanked by smaller 6/6 wood windows. The central door opens onto a metal balconet which also holds the station's flag. All of these openings have bold architrave surrounds, while the three together are also topped by a single projecting window cornice. Ornamental sculptural relief in stone and reflecting a Spanish Mission aesthetic sits atop the window cornice. Two, small round-arched windows with diamond-paned double-hung sash sit within the end bays to either side of this central bay. The third or attic story of the façade, located in the gable end, features a quatrefoil window on center of the façade.

The southwestern side elevation extends six bays deep. The front and largest bay of this side elevation supports the hometower/campanile. Like the rest of the building, this hometower is clad in stucco and is topped by a bell tower clearly designed to evoke Southwestern missions. The mission motif is further reinforced by the four buttresses which separate the central bays from each other along this wall surface and by the red tile roof. The central bays are articulated by paired 6/1 windows on the first story, set beneath a segmental arch of concrete, and on the second story by pairs of 6/1 windows set within an architrave surround, also of concrete. The rearmost bay of this elevation reads as a tower itself, with a Mission-style gable parapet wall culminating the roofline with a tall and narrow chimney stack atop it. The first story of this rear bay has a single 12/1 double-hung window while the second story offers a door (providing access to the hayloft) with a block and tackle pulley.

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The northwestern (rear) elevation features a relatively balanced arrangement of windows with single openings on the first and second stories and a large pair of windows located between them, opening on the stair landing on the interior. A semi-circular lunette window sits above this pair, providing natural light into the second floor stair landing.

At the rear of the firehouse is a small parking area that opens onto an alley lined with one-story garages for neighboring houses. A small contemporaneous pump house is located at the back corner of the lot.

Although originally constructed as a free-standing structure, the north side elevation of the building now abuts the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century row of houses next to the firehouse.

## Interior:

Historically, the firehouse offered a traditional interior plan that consisted of the engine room on the first story with the horse stalls and sitting room behind them, and on the second story of the dormitory with the forage (hay storage area) and bathrooms behind. The firehouse was completed reconstructed in 1982 and 1983, leaving little of the original interior plan or detailing intact.

During the 1982-83 reconstruction, the exterior of the firehouse was fully restored, with the bell tower even receiving a new bell.

**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**

1908-1957

**Significant Dates**

1908

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Appleton P. Clark

**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 Listing: *Firehouses in Washington, D.C., 1806-1945*. This thematic document divides the approximately 150-year history of firehouses in Washington, D.C. into four periods, distinguished by the organization of firefighting operations and technology, by architectural style and designer. Engine Company 21, constructed in 1909 in a picturesque Spanish Mission style is an excellent illustration of a firehouse from the third period (City Beautiful Movement/Eclectic Period) of firehouse construction between the 1890s and World War I. Designed by prominent local architect Appleton P. Clark, possibly in collaboration with architect James G. Hill, the firehouse has been an early landmark of the Lanier Heights neighborhood since its construction in 1908. Engine Company 21 is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C with Architecture and Community Planning and Development as the Areas of Significance. The Period of Significance for Engine Company 21 extends from 1908 when the building was constructed until 1957, a point fifty years in the past from the present.

## Resource History and Historic Context:

Built in 1908 to accommodate both Engine Company 21 and Truck Company 9, this firehouse on Lanier Place, N.W. has since been in continuous operation. The firehouse officially opened on December 28, 1908, but its crews had been working out of the station for the previous two weeks, responding to calls and training their new horses on apparatus. Erected at the outskirts of the city, the firehouse was equipped with a combination chemical engine for use when water was unavailable, and "hose wagon" (Engine Company 21). The new firehouse received the city's longest hook and ladder truck (hence Truck Company 9), possibly to reach the multi-story apartment buildings being contemporaneously erected (namely, the Ontario Apartments).

The construction of Engine Company 21 is likely the result of the involvement of Archibald McLachlen, owner of the nearby luxurious Ontario Apartment building. In 1903, McLachlen hired one of Washington's most prominent architects, James G. Hill, to design the Ontario in what was then an undeveloped area of the city. It is thought that McLachlen may have encouraged the District to construct a firehouse on the site as a form of insurance on his real estate investment. He may have donated the land or money for the purpose, though this is not known. In any case, the existence of the new firehouse surely increased the appeal of the apartment building and allayed any fears of fire new residents may have had.

The design of the firehouse is attributed to Appleton P. Clark, whose name appears on the building drawings. However, based upon strong similarities with the nearby Ontario Apartments, it is likely that

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there was some kind of collaboration between Appleton P. Clark and James G. Hill, the architect of the Ontario. At the time the firehouse was completed the firehouse and the Ontario were among the few buildings in the immediate vicinity. While the collaboration is undocumented, there was a conscious and expressed attempt to make the firehouse compatible with the Ontario.<sup>1</sup>

The firehouse was originally built to accommodate both the engine company and the truck company, which are both still quartered there today. In 1975, the firehouse had become deteriorated and was slated for demolition. However, the neighborhood successfully halted the demolition, petitioning the city to rehabilitate the building. Although the interior was completely gutted, the exterior was restored and the building survives as a notable and familiar neighborhood landmark.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Washington Post*, December 27, 1908.

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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.

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.

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.

Washington Star Archives, Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

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** 7,500 square feet

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8 Zone	3 2 2 9 7 9 Easting	4 3 1 0 3 5 6 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; Kim Williams (edited, 2007), Architectural Historian  
Organization The Capitol Fire Museum date March 2001  
street & number 2214 Wyoming Avenue, NW telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Washington, D.C. state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 20008

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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:

Engine Company 21 at 1763 Lanier Place, N.W. occupies Lot 63 of Square 2583 in the District of Columbia.

## Boundary Justification:

Engine Company 21 has occupied this lot since its construction in 1908.