

D.C. HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
APPLICATION FOR
HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

APPLICATION TO:

Designate
 Rescind
 Amend

PROPERTY NAME: Old Engine Company 11

ADDRESS: 1338 Park Road, NW Washington, DC 20011 (may be listed as 1336 Park Road)

SQUARE AND LOT NUMBER(S): Square 2843 Lot 12

PRESENT OWNER: District of Columbia Fire Department

OWNER ADDRESS: 1923 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20001

ORIGINAL USE: Firehouse

PRESENT USE: Vacant

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1900

DATE OF MAJOR ALTERATION(S): N/A

ARCHITECT(S): Possibly Leon Dessez

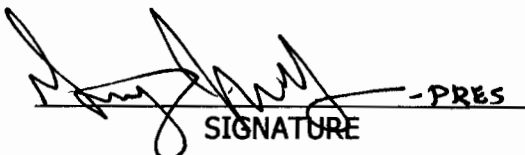
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE/PERIOD: Italian Renaissance Revival

NAME OF APPLICANT: The Capitol Fire Museum

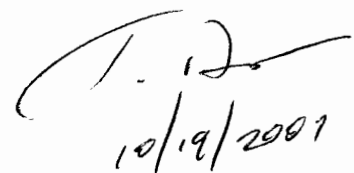
ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE OF APPLICANT:

PO Box 21129
Washington, DC 20009
202-974-4504

NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

 - PRES
SIGNATURE

10 Jun 01
DATE


10/19/2001

310.21 A STATEMENT OF THE PREHISTORIC, HISTORIC, ARCHITECTURAL, AND/OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION.

Old Engine Company 11 qualifies for landmark status in the District of Columbia by meeting the following criteria as established in the final rules of the DC Historic Preservation Review Board as published in the DC Register in 1995:

- 1) It is the site of significant events and is associated with persons, groups, and institutions that contributed significantly to the heritage, culture, and development of the National Capital and the Nation;
- 2) It exemplifies significant political, economic, social, scientific, technical, educational, historical, and architectural heritage of the National Capital and the Nation;
- 3) It embodies the distinguishing characteristics of architectural style, a building type, and urban design significant to the appearance and development of the National Capital and the Nation;
- 5) It contains information about and evidence of historic events, institutions, design, construction, and settlement patterns that is known to be important to understanding our culture.

The context and significance for this firehouse is described in the Washington, DC Firehouse Multiple Property Documentation form.

Originally Truck F, renamed Truck Company 6 in 1906, this firehouse received its third name in 1940 when it was combined with Engine Company 11.¹

¹ Fire Fighters' Association. One Hundred of Glory: A History of the District of Columbia Fire Department, 1871-1971, p.i-iii.

310.21 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Old Engine Company 11 - con't.)

The firehouse helped to establish the tone of Columbia Heights which, developing at the turn-of-the-century, became a neighborhood of elegant rowhouses designed for upper-middle income residents.² It is likely the firehouse was designed by Leon Dessez, the architect credited with designing at least seven Washington firehouses. He designed two others in 1900 - Engine Company 5, 3412 Dent Place, NW, Georgetown and Engine Company 20, 4300 Wisconsin Avenue, NW.

Since the 1982 construction of a new firehouse for Engine Company 11 at 3420 14th Street, N.W., this building has served as a storage center for the Fire Department.

² Park Road was then known as Whitney Avenue. G.M. Hopkins. Atlas of Washington, D.C., Philadelphia: Hopkins Publishing Company, 1887; and Baist's Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, D.C. Philadelphia: G.W. Baist, (Vol. 3) 1903 and 1907.

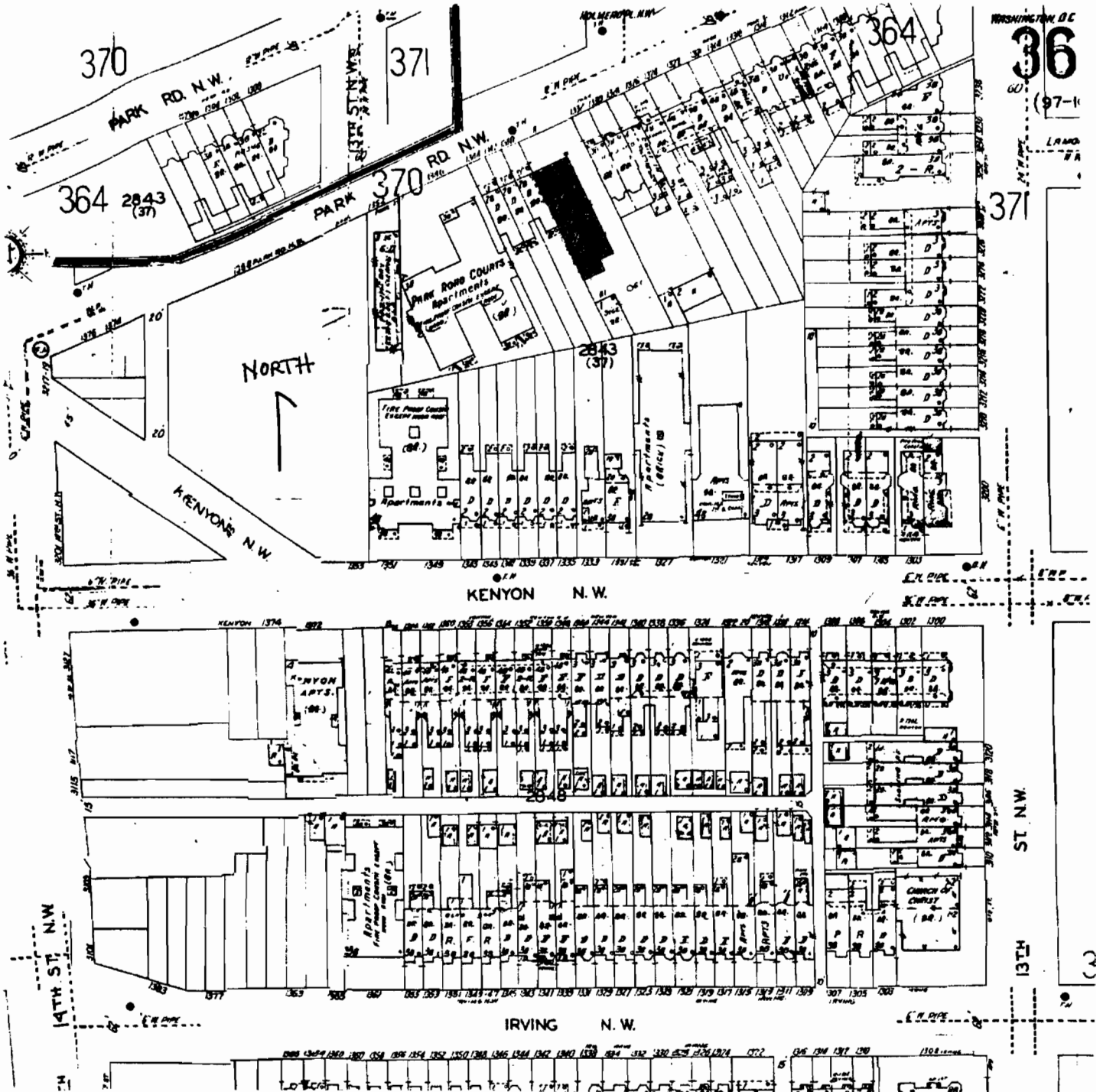
310.23 IF PROPERTY IS PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION PRINCIPALLY FOR ITS PREHISTORIC, HISTORIC, AND/OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY AND ITS RELATION TO THE PREHISTORIC, HISTORIC, AND/OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY.

Old Engine Company 11 references Italian Renaissance palazzi. The facade of the firehouse, constructed of blond brick, probably to evoke stone, and ornamented with intricate terra cotta, has a cornice which extends approximately two feet beyond the face of the building. The cornice is supported by four pairs of brackets which are mounted on a frieze of intricate design the center panel of which is inscribed with, "Truck Company F, D.C.F.D." Terra cotta windows surrounds with oversized voussoirs ornament the three second-story windows which have sills supported by small brackets on each end. The end windows are topped by straight lintels while the center window has a curved pediment.

The original apparatus-door openings, which were destroyed during enlargement, were formed of voussoirs arranged as arches. Although dirt has obscured much of the terra cotta detail, the exterior is fully intact. The interior partitions, with the exception of the horsestalls, are also intact. An outbuilding at the rear of the firehouse probably served as a supplementary a stable. The coffered-tin ceiling in the bunkroom is still in place and in good condition. Probably designed to be a free-standing building, it is now attached on the west to a front-porch rowhouse.

310.24 A MAP SHOWING THE EXACT BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPERTY PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION; THE SQUARE AND LOT NUMBER(S) OR PARCEL NUMBER; SQUARE FOOTAGE OF PROPERTY PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION; NORTH ARROW; AND CONTIGUOUS STREETS, IF ANY.

Old Engine Company 11, 1338 Park Road, NW
 Square 2843 Lot 12
 Land 9,770 square feet
 Building 7,831 square feet



310.25 CONTEMPORARY GOOD QUALITY PHOTOGRAPH(S) OF THE PROPERTY PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION WHICH PROVIDE A CLEAR AND ACCURATE VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF THE PROPERTY AND ITS SETTING; SPECIFY VIEW, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH AND LIST CREDITS, IF ANY. 8" X 10" GLOSSY PHOTOGRAPHS ARE PREFERRED. IN ADDITION, APPLICANT MAY SUPPLY SLIDES. (TWO COPIES OF EACH PHOTOGRAPH AND SLIDE)

All photographs are of Old Engine Company 11, 1338 Park Road, NW

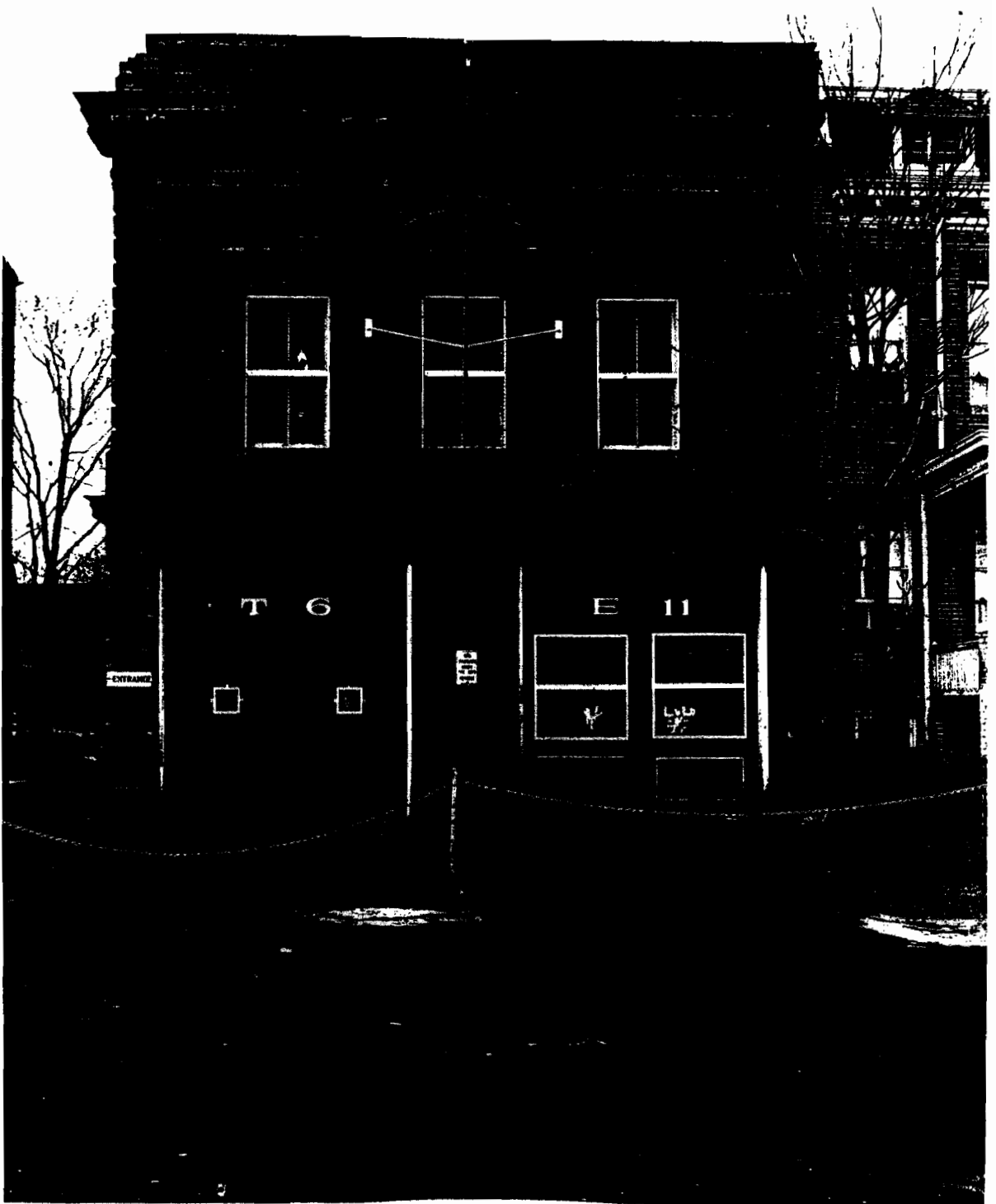
1. North facade, 2001
Sally Berk, photographer
2. North facade, c1904
From the collection of Retired DC Firefighter Jackson Gearhart
3. North facade, n.d.
From the collection of Retired DC Firefighter Jackson Gearhart
4. South facade, n.d.
From the collection of Retired DC Firefighter Jackson Gearhart
5. Interior showing tin ceiling, n.d.
From the collection of Retired DC Firefighter Jackson Gearhart

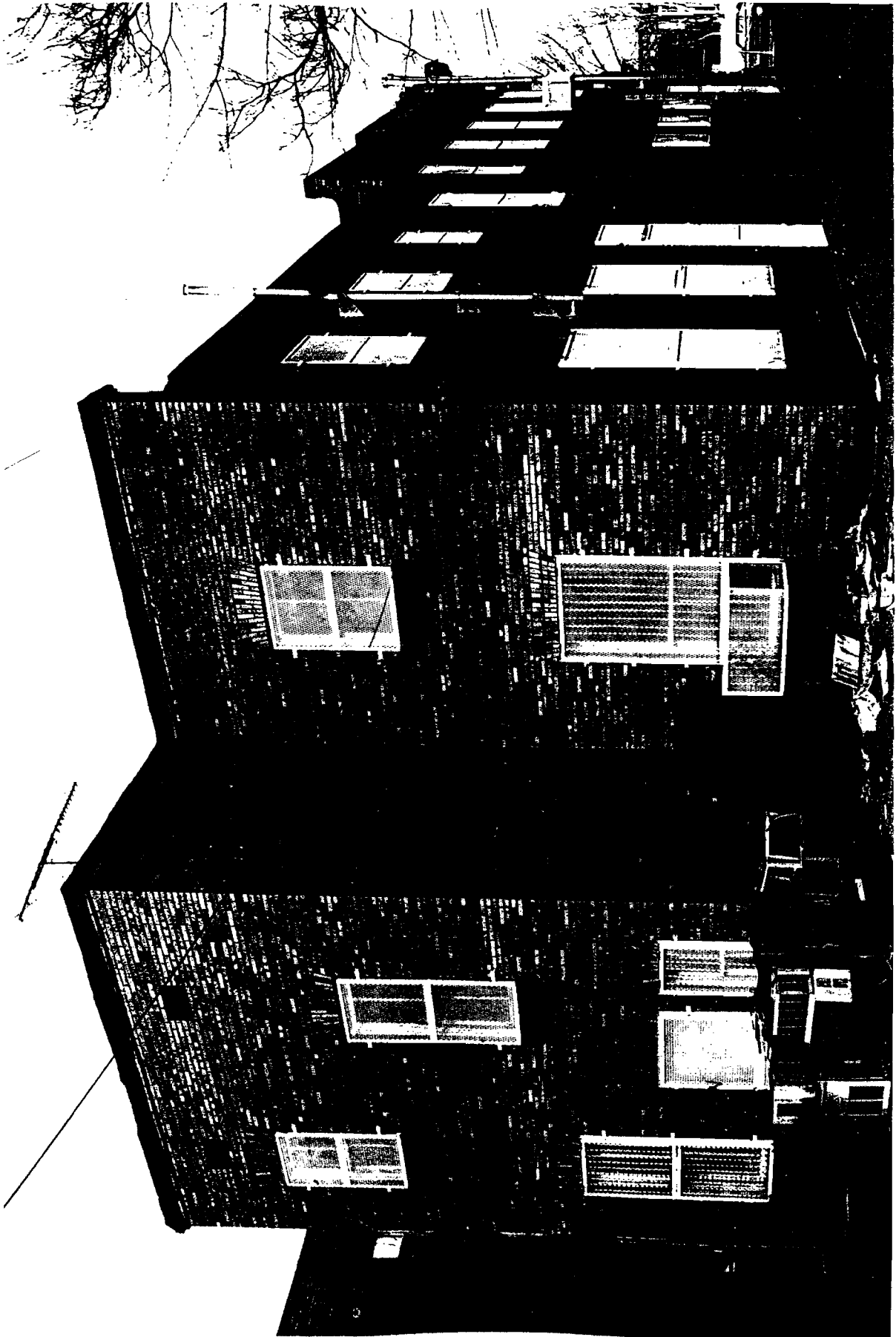
No. 6 Truck House, Fire Department,

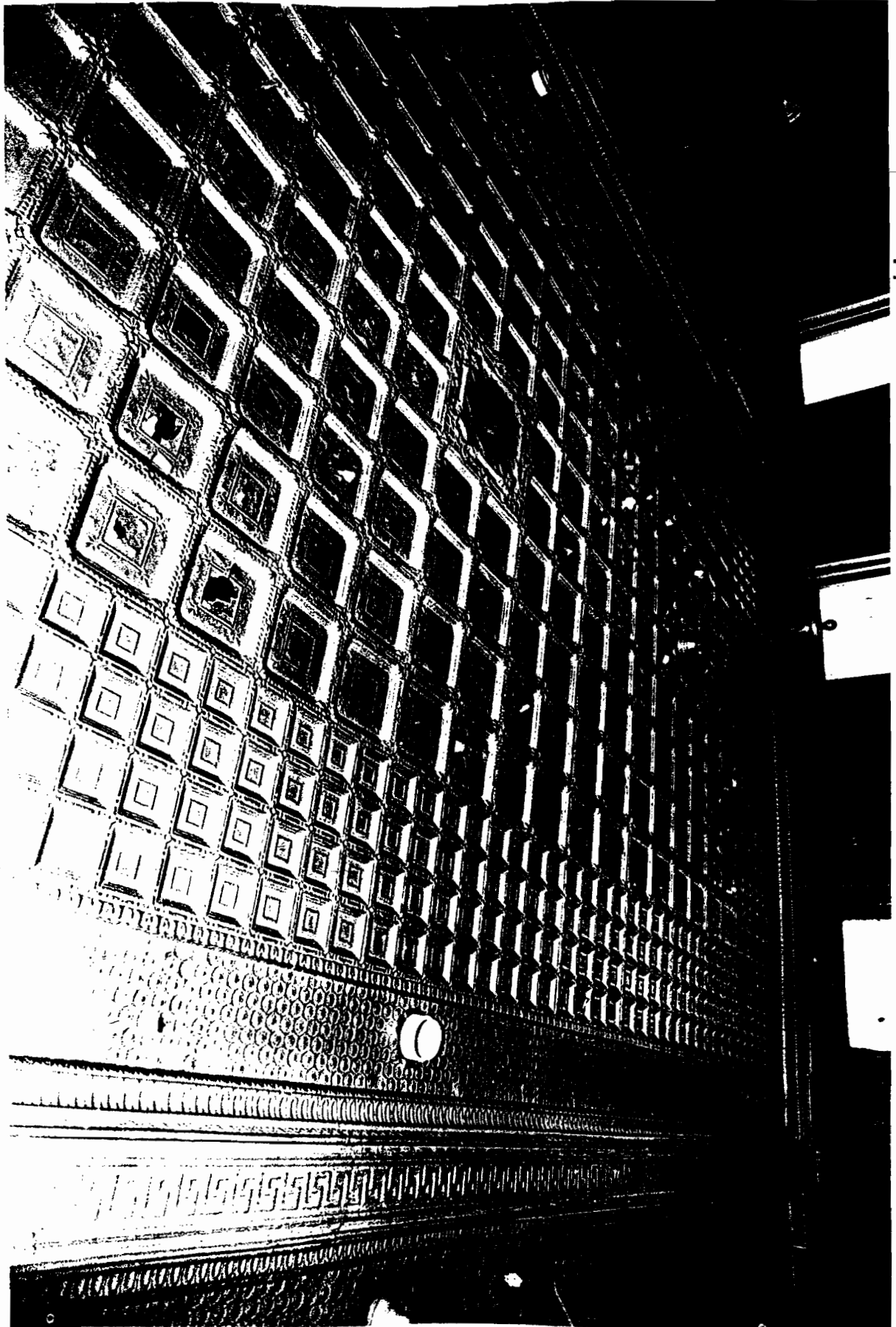
District of Columbia.

Park Road between 13th and 14th streets, northwest.









310.26 A LIST OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND OTHER SOURCES USED TO PREPARE THE APPLICATION; INDICATE WHERE THE REFERENCE MATERIAL IS ARCHIVED.

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.

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310.26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (page 2)

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

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