

**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 Truck Company F

other names Truck Company 6; Old Engine Company 11; Old Columbia Heights Firehouse

**2. Location**

street & number 1336-1338 Park Road, N.W.  not for publication

city or town Washington, D.C.  vicinity

state District of Columbia code DC county \_\_\_\_\_ code 001 zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Truck Company F  
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Washington, D.C.  
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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	
2		buildings
		sites
		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)

19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Renaissance Revival

foundation    Brick

walls    Brick with terra cotta

roof

other

**Narrative Description**

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

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## Description Summary:

Truck Company F (Old Engine Company 11) is a two-story brick firehouse executed in an excellent interpretation of late Italian Renaissance Revival style to the designs of noted architect Leon Dessez. Erected in 1900 in the emerging neighborhood of Columbia Heights, the firehouse features delicate Roman brick walls with exquisite terra cotta detail. Originally built as a freestanding structure, the firehouse is now attached on the west side to a 20<sup>th</sup> century front-porch row house.

A brick storage building is located at the rear of the lot. Based upon its construction, including a complex corbelled cornice, and its appearance on historic maps, the outbuilding appears to be contemporaneous to the firehouse. +

## General Description:

### Exterior:

The north (front) elevation of Truck Company F, facing Park Road, is clad in a blond brick made to evoke stone and is divided into three principal bays. On the first story, two large apparatus doors are located to either side of a central pier. On the second story are three single windows grouped together, but with the central window given greater emphasis by its Renaissance-inspired segmental-arched pediment supported by volutes. The flanking windows feature molded terra cotta surrounds with oversized voussoirs and keystones at the head and a projecting lintel above. Originally the apparatus doors featured segmental arched openings with exaggerated brick jack-arched lintels made to look like stone voussoirs. Today, the apparatus doors (enlarged to accommodate larger trucks) have squared-off openings with a single steel beam forming the head, or lintel. When the doors were enlarged, a central window that was originally located in the central pier between the apparatus doors, was removed when the doors were enlarged, but with almost no trace of alteration.

Four sets of paired brackets support a bold and projecting cornice and parapet wall, which rise above the full second story of the firehouse. Raised panels decorate the frieze between the brackets, with the one on-center inscribed with "Truck Company F, D.C.F.D." Despite the alterations to the apparatus doors, the building retains a high degree of integrity.

### Interior:

The interior of the firehouse retains its original plan, as well as its original partition walls. The coffered tin ceiling in the second floor bunkroom is also still in place and in good condition.

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Since the 1982 construction of a new firehouse at 3420 14<sup>th</sup> Street, this building has been used as a storage facility for the Fire Department.

### Outbuilding:

A one-story brick outbuilding is located at the rear of the lot. A tall parapet with a corbelled brick cornice gives the small and vernacular storage structure a certain stature.

**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**

1900-1957

**Significant Dates**

1900

**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 Listing: *Firehouses in Washington, D.C.: 1806-1945*. Originally constructed in 1900 as Engine Company F, the firehouse at 1336-1338 Park Road, NW is an excellent example of the building type, constructed during the City Beautiful Movement, and executed in a late Italian Renaissance Revival style. The building is also likely the work of noted architect Leon Dessez, who was responsible for at least seven Washington firehouses. The building meets Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register. The Period of Significance for Truck Company F extends from 1900 when the firehouse was constructed to 1957, a point fifty years from the present. +

## Resource History and Historic Context:

Constructed in 1900 in the emerging Columbia Heights neighborhood, Truck Company F was built for the District of Columbia's professional firefighting force. Over the years, the personnel and equipment headquartered here have fought numerous fires and affected numerous rescues. The firehouse has been a visual landmark of Columbia Heights since its construction, setting the tone for the institutional and commercial architecture on 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Truck Company F was one of the first in a new series of high-style firehouses created in the City Beautiful Movement/Eclectic Period of firehouse construction that extended from the 1890s until World War I. The building was designed as an expression of civic pride and as a testament to the importance of the fire department. The station was undoubtedly designed by architect Leon Dessez, a prominent D.C. architect responsible for many other significant federal, municipal and private buildings in the city, including at least seven other firehouses.

In 1906, Truck Company F was re-named Truck Company 6, and later became Engine Company 11 in 1940 when the building was merged with Engine Company 11. The building was removed from duty when Engine Company 11 relocated in 1982. The D.C. Fire Department presently refers to this building as Old Engine Company 11.

Architect Leon Dessez had a long and distinguished career working largely on government commissions. Some of his earliest work was as a draftsman for the Navy Yard and for the completion of the Washington Monument. He designed at least three D.C. school buildings, Gallinger Hospital, a hospital at the Soldiers' Home, the D.C. Prison at Occoquan, and the Vice President's house at the "old" Naval Observatory. He also designed many private residences, apartments and hotels, and was the chief architect for the Chevy Chase Land Company for a quarter-century. He was an early member of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the National

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Capital Planning Commission, and the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

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## Major Bibliographical References:

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Gearhart, Jackson H., Firefighter. Interview, August 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.

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Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

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Press, Inc., 1982.

+

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 9,770 square feet

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8 Zone	3 2 3 8 8 3 Easting	4 3 1 0 8 0 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; Kim Williams (edited, 2007), Architectural Historian

Organization The Capitol Fire Museum date March 2001

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 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:

Truck Company F occupies Lot 12 in Square 2843 in the District of Columbia. The lot is located at 1336-38 Park Road, NW.+

## Boundary Justification:

Truck Company F has been associated with this lot since construction of the firehouse on the site in 1900.

+