

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

APPLICATION TO:

- Designate
 Rescind
 Amend

PROPERTY NAME: Old Engine House 10

ADDRESS: 1341 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

SQUARE AND LOT NUMBER(S): Square 1028 Lot 830

PRESENT OWNER: District of Columbia Department

OWNER ADDRESS: 441 4th Street, NW Washington, DC 20001

ORIGINAL USE: Firehouse

PRESENT USE: Vacant

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1894

DATE OF MAJOR ALTERATION(S): N/A

ARCHITECT(S): Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE/PERIOD: Late Victorian; Queen Anne 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

172-03
T. D.
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 10 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 for this firehouse is described in the Washington, DC Firehouse Multiple Property Documentation form. An 1887 plat map shows this area to be sparsely developed with modest houses.¹ Therefore, in 1894, it was not difficult to purchase three city lots for the firehouse and its alley. Old Engine Company 10 is one of the first of the firehouses to be built in anticipation of future development rather than in the midst of a fully-developed neighborhood. The area grew rather quickly, however, and by 1903 was more than fifty-percent developed.²

¹ G.M. Hopkins. Atlas of Washington, D.C., Philadelphia: Hopkins Publishing Company, 1887.

² Baist's Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, D.C. Philadelphia: G.W. Baist, (Vol. 3) 1903.

310.21 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Old Engine Company 10 - con't.)

In 1940, when the fire department experienced a major restructuring, Engine Company 10 was combined with Truck Company 13 at 1342 Florida Avenue, NE, and the old firehouse on Maryland Avenue was vacated.³ It served for awhile as a community center, at one time housing the headquarters for Advisory Neighborhood Council 6A and the offices for the Tollgate Neighborhood Association. Today, it is vacant. Despite minor alterations, Old Engine House 10 retains its integrity and is easily recognizable as a firehouse.

³ Fire Fighters' Association. One Hundred of Glory: A History of the District of Columbia Fire Department, 1871-1971, p.i.

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.

This is a two-story, mid-block firehouse from the Victorian period. Its Queen Anne Revival facade is characterized by ornate brickwork and terra cotta. The gable, containing the inscription "Engine House No. 10," extends above a deep cornice composed of corbelled bricks. Beneath the cornice is a terra cotta frieze of rosettes. Two round-arched windows on the second floor are outlined in brickwork. Between the windows, a tablet in the shape of a temple front is carved with the date "Erected 1894." Brick pilasters, one on each side of the building and one large one in the center of the building, reach to the springing of the window arches. The pilaster capitals are composed of the same terra cotta tiles used in the frieze. The firehouse fits comfortably with its neighboring middle-to-upper income rowhouses.

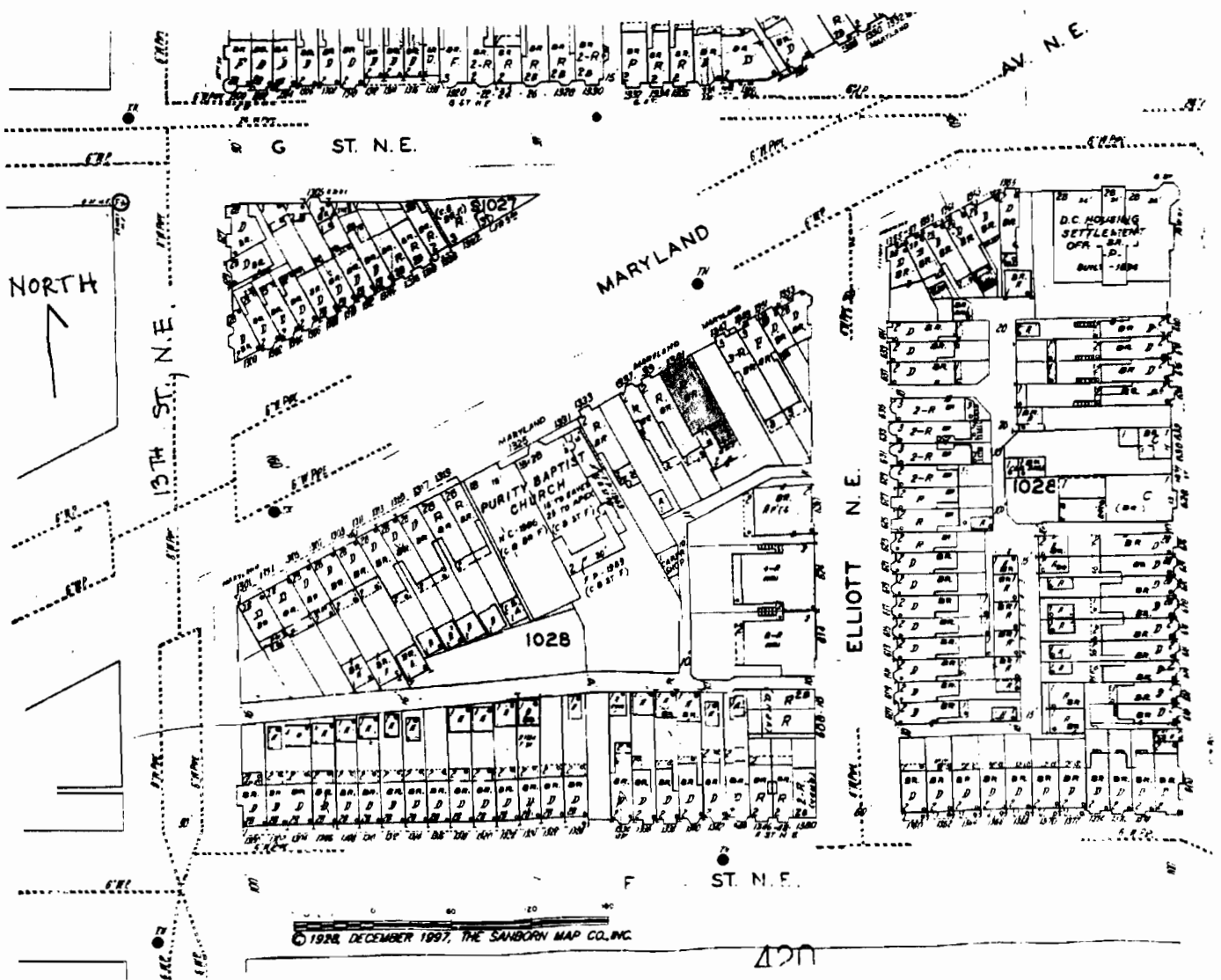
Several alterations have been made to its facade. An historic photograph c.1911 shows the ground-floor facade as having alternating horizontal bands of brick and limestone, a detail which has been partly removed and partly painted out.⁴ The original apparatus door remains on the eastern half of the building but the other door is a replacement of much larger size. Where once there was a brick wall and wooden gates, a chain-link fence now encloses the alley. A flimsy foyer, enclosing the central entrance, has been added to the exterior.

The interior of Engine House 10 is basically the same as that of contemporaneous firehouses. The only major difference is in the access to the hose racks. A full staircase rises from the ground floor to a third floor landing where the entrance to the hose tower is located.

⁴ Photograph from the collection of Firefighter Jackson Gerhart.

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 House 10, 1341 Maryland Avenue, NE
 Square 1028 Lot 830
 Land 5,485 square feet
 Building 3,814 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 10, 1341 Maryland Avenue, NE

1. North facade, 2001
Sally Berk, photographer
2. North facade, c. 1904
From the collection of Retired DC Firefighter Jackson Gearhart

No. 10 Engine House, Fire Department,

District of Columbia.

Maryland Avenue, between 13th and 14th streets, northeast.



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