

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Engine Company 22

other names/site number Chemical Company 2; Truck Company 11

2. Location

street & number 5760 Georgia Avenue not for publication

city or town Washington, D.C. vicinity

state Washington, D.C. code DC county _____ code 001 zip code 20008

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Engine Company 22
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

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	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	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.: 1806-1945

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

19th CENTURY REVIVAL/Italian Renaissance

foundation: Brick
walls: Brick

roof: Slate
other: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

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Summary Paragraph

Engine Company 22 is located at 5760 Georgia Avenue, on the west side of the street just south of the intersection of Missouri Avenue in the city's Brightwood neighborhood. Constructed in 1897, the firehouse is a 2-1/2-story, flat-fronted brick structure designed in a vernacular manner with Italian Renaissance references, most notably seen in the attic-level window treatment and projecting cornice. The building consists of two parts: an original two-bay, two-story with attic-level main block and a single-bay-wide side wing addition to the south, together measuring 43-feet wide and 71 feet deep and comprising 10,500 square feet. The side wing was initially constructed in 1907 as a single-story bay to accommodate an additional fire apparatus. In 1939, it was enlarged by the addition of a full story and attic level, making the wing the same height as the original building. The side wing was executed to match the original structure in terms of style, fenestration patterns, materials and architectural detailing. In the later 20th century, the wing was extended towards the rear of the lot, reaching the full extent of the original building. The building is covered by a flat roof with the hose tower projecting towards the rear of the building and visible only from the rear of the building.

A small, non-contributing concrete block oil house, covered with a gable-roof is located at the rear of the lot.

The interior of the building is organized according to its original configuration with the apparatus room and lounge (sitting room) on the ground level and the dormitories above. Some interior alterations, including the addition of partition walls have been made, but the overall configuration, finishes and details survive intact.

The building's overall scale, massing and materials is compatible with the surrounding building stock along the commercial Georgia Avenue of the Brightwood neighborhood.

Narrative Description

The principal elevation of Engine Co. 22 faces east to Georgia Avenue. The original block of the building is divided into two bays, while the southern side wing adds an additional bay to the building's width. The first story includes three apparatus door openings (two in main block and one in wing), while the second story has three large and symmetrically arranged window openings, and the attic level consists of four small, square openings. Originally, the main block consisted of the apparatus doors to either side of a narrow entrance cut into the central pier between the door bays. However, the apparatus doors were widened when the firehouse transitioned from using horse-drawn apparatus to motorized ones in 1919, and as a result, the central pier was reduced in width and the central door was eliminated. The original doors were replaced with pairs of double accordion doors set beneath stone lintels. In the main block, this lintel spans both door bays, while in the addition the lintel spans only the single apparatus bay. In the main block, a brick pier separates the door openings at the center of the building, while brick end piers, or double-height pilasters, flank them. Like in the main block, the apparatus door opening in the side wing is punched into the wall surface, while the paired doors are slightly recessed. At the second story level, three large window openings are recessed into brick panel walls with the pilasters framing the edges and the center pier separating the openings. The windows are located directly above the three apparatus doors. The windows, originally wood hopper windows, have been replaced with pairs of long, single-pane window sash. The windows are set within their original sash, however, separated by a wide wood stile and surmounted by pairs of smaller, single-pane replacement transom lights. The windows in the main block feature limestone sills and slightly projecting stone cornices above the transoms. The stone in the newer side wing is much less worn.

The double-height pilasters, located to either side of the recessed window bays, frame the ends of the building. The pilasters are constructed of brick, but are capped with narrow stone capitals. The pier at the center of the main block of the building, between the two original window bays, holds a stone tablet bearing the fire company's original name, "Chemical Engine Company No. 2 1897." A narrow wood dentil course runs between the central pier and the end piers, above the windows and an implied brick frieze board.

The attic level above, is boldly articulated and pronounced by three square window openings, recessed into the brick wall with reveal molding, and surrounded by projecting limestone trim with corner blocks. A broad cornice with oversized modillions extends across the entire façade. This attic bay opens on the interior into the roof structure and is thus not useable space. Its square window openings and overhanging cornice recall those found in 16th-century Italian Renaissance buildings, namely palazzos.

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The building is covered with a flat roof, with a cupola set back from the front of the building. The cupola is a frame structure covered with a pyramidal roof covered with standing seam metal.

The firehouse was originally built as a freestanding structure, with no openings on the north side wall. Today, the side wing abuts the original south side wall of the main block, while the north side of the building abuts a similarly sized building to the north. The south side wall is thus the side wall of the bay addition added in phases in 1907, 1939 and the later 20th-century. This side wall is brick with three, single openings in the front half, dating to 1907 and 1911. The first floor has a single-door opening towards the front bay that has been filled in with brick. The windows have 1/1 replacement sash set into the brick openings. The rear wing, added sometime mid-century, has two openings on the first floor and two on the second, all filled with single, 2/2 windows. There is a clear demarcation between the front and rear wings.

The west (rear) elevation is utilitarian in appearance. The main block of brick has several openings somewhat randomly scattered across the surface, several of which have been filled in with brick of a different color. These openings all feature three-course soldier course segmental-arched brick lintels. A pair of windows on the first story appears to have been punched into the wall at a later date since it lacks the segmental arches. A single door leads into the firemen's sitting room/lounge at the rear of the apparatus room. The rear elevation of the side bay addition has two single windows on the first and second stories, respectively.

A brick chimney is located at the northwest corner of the building and the hose tower projects above the roofline towards the south side of the original, main block. This hose tower is of frame construction with a hipped roof supported by overhanging rafters.

Interior:

The interior of the firehouse is divided into three apparatus bays on the first story and two dormitory rooms and facilities on the second floor. The two apparatus bays in the original, main block of the building are dedicated to Engine Co. 22, while the bay in the addition is for Truck Co. No. 11. A sizeable sitting room is located at the rear of the apparatus room, with a quarter-turn stair leading to the dormitory rooms above. The open stringer stair has been enclosed, leaving its balusters hidden behind paneling, yet its newel posts are left exposed. The hose tower, located next to the stair and accessible from the apparatus room is now used for storage.

The second story of the main block includes the firemen's dormitory at the front of the building over the apparatus room, and bathrooms and other rooms towards the rear. The second floor above the side bay also accommodates a dormitory room. The fire poles, located in the front dormitory and central hallway, have been enclosed within full-height walls, rather than being open to the room as they were originally.

The interior retains its original configuration of space, materials and finishes, including the original stair, original brass fire poles, the original wood floors and wood window casings.

INTEGRITY

Engine Company 22 is the oldest firehouse that is still in use as a firehouse. It stands at its original location along Georgia Avenue in the Brightwood area of D.C. The principal alterations to the building—the removal of the central entry and the widening of the apparatus doors—were done sensitively and in a manner that does not compromise the building's quality of design, materials and workmanship, and were done to accommodate the transition from horse-drawn vehicles to motorized ones. Similarly, the side wing addition—both the original, one-story section and later full-height addition—were executed in a sympathetic architectural manner to the original, and both are within the Period of Significance. As a still functioning firehouse, the building retains its integrity of association and feeling.

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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 patterns of our history.
- B Property is 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1897-1961 (fifty years from the present)

Significant Dates

1897; 1907; 1939

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Leon Dessez

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance for Engine Company 22 is 1897 to 1961 (a point fifty years from the present). The building was constructed in 1897 and continues to serve as a firehouse to the present. It is the oldest firehouse in use in the city.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Constructed in 1897, Engine Company 22 provides an excellent example of a city firehouse, built during the beginning of the third phase in the construction the city's pre-World War II firehouse buildings, as identified in the National Register Multiple Property document "*Firehouses in Washington, D.C.: 1806-1945.*" The building meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level of significance according to the Multiple Property Document as an excellent example of the associated property sub-type: City Beautiful/Eclectic Period (1897-1916), built in an emerging residential suburb of the city.

Engine Company 22 was constructed as Chemical Company 2 in response to a petition by Brightwood residents to locate a firehouse in the vicinity following several major fires in the area. The firehouse followed the standard Victorian-era model with two apparatus bays on the ground floor and the firemen's dormitories above. The modest-scaled building was designed with references to the Italian Renaissance style, namely in the articulation of the attic-level windows and its overhanging roofline. Although no firm attribution has been established, it is probable that Engine Company 22 was designed by architect Leon Dessez. Dessez was one of a small group of members of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects that received multiple commissions for public buildings during the Eclectic Period of firehouse design in the city.

In 1907, a one-story wing was added to the firehouse as a bay for a ladder truck, and the following year, the firehouse was re-organized as Engine Company 22 and Truck Company 11. In 1939, this side wing received its own addition of a second floor and attic level to expand the sleeping quarters for a larger crew.

Engine Company 22 survives as the oldest, continuously operating firehouse in the city.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Engine Company 22 is significant in the Area of **Architecture** as an excellent example of an Eclectic Period firehouse. The small-scaled brick firehouse follows the standard Victorian Period/Eclectic Period building form for firehouses and retains its original configuration, with apparatus bays on the ground floor and dormitory above. The firehouse reflects an Italian Renaissance-style design, offering one of several eclectic styles chosen for firehouse design during this Eclectic period.

Engine Company 22 is significant in the Area of **Community Planning and Development** as an example of a suburban firehouse located in Brightwood, an emerging residential neighborhood outside of the city center and built in response to a petition by local residents.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The context for firehouses, fully described in the National Register Multiple Property Listing: *Firehouses in Washington, D.C.: 1806-1945*, divides the construction of the city's firehouses into four chronological periods: Pre-Civil War (Volunteerism) Firehouse; Victorian Period Firehouses (1865-1897); City Beautiful Movement/Eclectic Period Firehouses (1897-1916); and Inter-War/Colonial Revival Period Firehouses (1925-1945). Engine Company 22 was constructed in 1897 at the juncture of the Victorian period, and the City Beautiful/Eclectic Period.

As detailed in the Multiple Property document, firehouses built during the Eclectic Period generally followed the same design patterns as those of the Victorian era. However, these firehouses were often designed by private architects, outside of the Office of the Municipal Architect, in a variety of eclectic styles. The firehouses were also often built outside of the established downtown neighborhoods in the city's emerging residential subdivisions. Based upon the erection of Engine Company 22 in an emerging suburban area and its Italian Renaissance stylistic references, it is considered to be part of the Eclectic Period.

Engine Company 22 was originally constructed to house Chemical Company No. 2 and its horse-drawn apparatus following a petition by Brightwood citizens to have a firehouse constructed in the vicinity. The site, on Georgia Avenue, south of Missouri, was selected so the Chemical Company could have ready access to a larger area, since the Chemical

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Company was tasked with protecting the immense area south of the Maryland border, including the emerging areas of Brightwood, Petworth and Takoma Park. Chemical companies were established in the developing areas that lacked public water service. The companies were equipped with engines that pumped chemical fire suppressants on the fires.

In 1907, a one-story wing was added as a bay for a ladder truck, and the following year, the firehouse was re-organized as Engine Company 22 and Truck Company 11. Despite the distances they were to cover, these companies did not receive motorized apparatus until 1918-1919. At that point, the firehouse was altered to accommodate the new motorized apparatus. Being nearest Maryland towns such as Silver Spring, they were frequently called across the border to assist. In 1939, the building was enlarged by a second floor addition to the side wing.

Although no firm attribution has been established, it is probably that Engine Company 22 was designed by architect Leon Dessez. Dessez was one of a small group of members of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects that received multiple commissions for public buildings during the Eclectic Period of firehouse design in the city.

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Name of Property

Washington, D.C.
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"An Engine House Site: Brightwood People Kept in the Dark by Commissioners," *The Washington Post*, August 21, 1896, p. 10.

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

"Brightwood Citizens Want Fire and Police Service for that Section," *The Washington Post*, Sept. 28, 1895, p. 12.

"City Briefs: Citizens of Brightwood Park Tonight Will Celebrate," *The Washington Post*, January 14, 1919, p. 14.

"Flag to Fire Ladders: Brightwood Celebrates Over Her Engine Company," *The Washington Post*, August 7, 1897, p. 3.

National Register Multiple Property Document: *Firehouses in Washington, D.C., 1806-1945*.

"Needed to Fight Fire: Chief Belt Asks for Seven New Companies," *The Washington Post*, September 25, 1908, p. 16.

"Selecting New Sites: Brightwood Engine House," *The Washington Post*, July 16, 1896, p. 10.

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

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

Previous documentation on file (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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 11,151 square feet

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Engine Company 22
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1 18 324240 4314181
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

2
Zone Easting Northing

4
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Engine Company is located at 5760 Georgia Avenue. The property includes all of that lot of land in Square 2935 Lot 5 in the District of Columbia (Parcel 87 Lot 5).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The lot of land has been associated with Engine Company 22 since its construction on the site in 1897.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Berk and Kim Williams, Architectural Historians
organization D.C. Historic Preservation Office date March 1, 2011
street & number 1000 4th Street, SW telephone 202 442-8840
city or town Washington, D.C. state zip code 20024
e-mail Kim.Williams@dc.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Engine Company 22

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County: State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: East Elevation

1 of 9.

Name of Property: Engine Company 22

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County: State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: East and South Elevations

2 of 9.

Name of Property: Engine Company 22

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County: State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: East Elevation

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Name of Property: Engine Company 22

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County: State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Engine Company 22

Name of Property

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Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: East and South Elevations

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Name of Property: Engine Company 22

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: East Elevation

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Name of Property: Engine Company 22

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Oil House

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Name of Property: Engine Company 22

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Dormitory, Second floor

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Name of Property: Engine Company 22

City or Vicinity: Washington, D.C.

County:

State:

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Photographer: Kim Williams

Date Photographed: March 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Stair newel at first floor, stairs leading to second floor

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Property Owner:

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

name District of Columbia Fire Department

street & number 1923 Vermont Avenue telephone _____

city or town Washington, D.C. state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act 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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

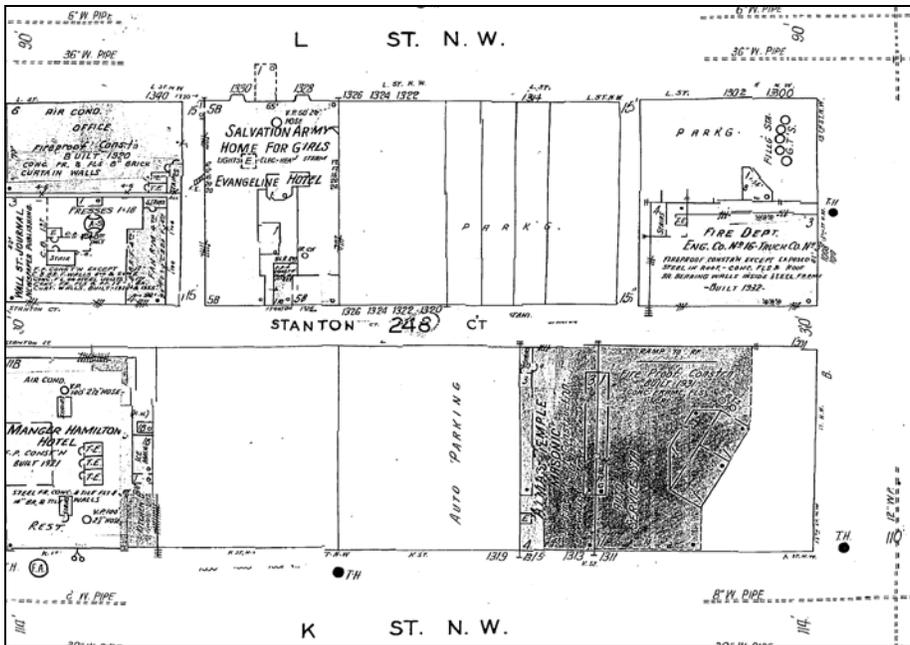
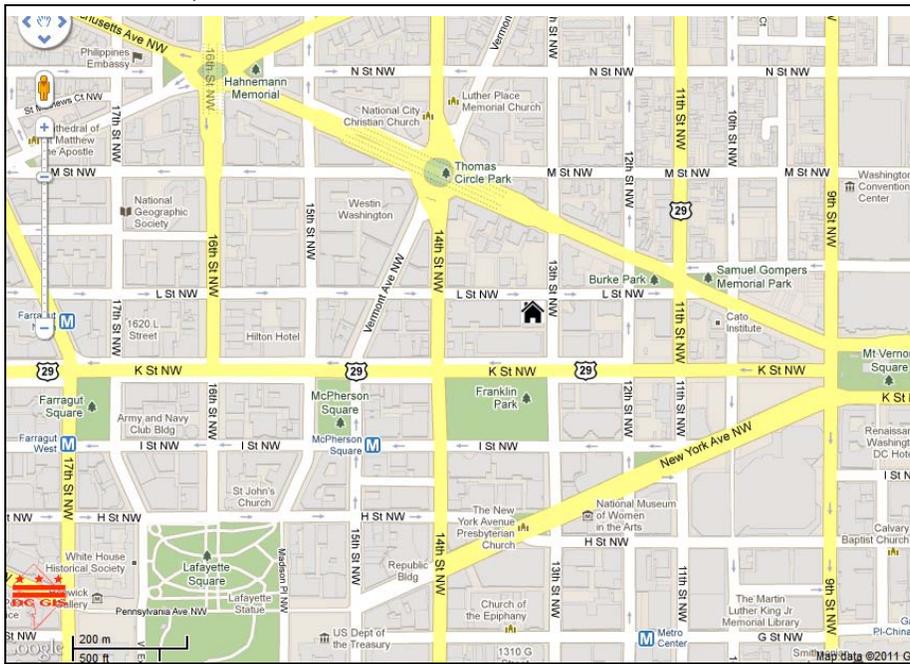
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Engine Company 16/Truck Company 4
Name of Property Washington, D.C.
County and State Firehouses in Washington, D.C.
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number MAPS/PLANS Page 1

Engine Company 16/Truck Company 4
1018 13th Street, NW



(From Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1960)