

**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 (Old) Engine Company 26

other names Chemical Company 3; Engine Company 26; Langdon Firehouse

2. Location

street & number 2715 22nd Street, N.E. not for publication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:

- 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

Old Engine Company 26
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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
		structures
		objects
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.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Firehouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Tudor Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick; stucco; and wood half-timbering

roof Slate

other

Narrative Description

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

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Description Summary:

Old Engine Company 26 is a 2-1/2-story, freestanding Tudor Revival-style building located at the height of a hill on 22nd Street, N.E. in the Langdon neighborhood in Washington, D.C. Domestic in form, the firehouse is characterized by its distinctive half-timbering, its varied use of materials, including brick, wood, stone and stucco, and its projecting window bays and dormers. The building is set upon a low brick and stone foundation and is covered with a steeply pitched gable roof with one end gable forming the principal elevation. The firehouse was constructed in 1908 to the designs of Alfred B. Mullett & Sons, prominent local architects.

General Description:

Exterior:

The west (front) elevation of old Engine Company 26, facing 22nd Street, N.E. is located in the building's gable end, formed by its steeply pitched gable roof. The façade is divided into two bays, defined on the first story by the two-segmental arched apparatus doors (now filled in) flanking a narrow slit-window on-center of the façade, and at the attic level by the building's distinctive half-timbering and a pair of windows on-center with diamond-paned double-hung sash. The second story of the building features a polygonal oriel window with four single 6/6 windows on the four canted wall surfaces. The first story of this front elevation is clad in brick with a rusticated stone foundation and smooth stone used ornamentally in the central keystone and end stones of the arched openings and in the sill of the central window.

A wood stringcourse and contrasting materials (brick on the first story and stucco on the second story) separate the two principal levels.

The north and south side elevations extend seven unequal bays deep with a brick chimney located towards the front end of the building and a projecting gable, with half-timbering in the gable end, towards the rear. The chimney projects slightly from the wall surface, then protrudes through the roofline displaying a corbelled stack. The first story of the side elevations are laid in brick and feature windows with segmental arched surrounds, with those in the front bays ornamented with stone keystones and end blocks.

The steeply pitched roof, clad with slate, has a central ventilator designed as a picturesque cupola atop the ridgeline. A garden enclosed by a two-foot-high wall has been constructed in front of the building's apparatus doors to de-emphasize the former and now obsolete entry to the building.

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The building, used in recent years as a church, now sits vacant and is partially boarded up. Although still intact and still maintaining its integrity, the building is in a fragile state, due principally to its unoccupied state.

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

1908-1940

Significant Dates

1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

A.B. Mullett & Sons

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.* Old Engine Company 26 was constructed in 1908 as Chemical Company 3 for the District of Columbia's professional firefighting force during the second period of firehouse construction known as the "Eclectic" period. During this period, between the 1890s and World War I, the Municipal Architect and a variety of private firms produced a large number of high-quality buildings in a variety of styles as an expression of civic pride, with careful consideration of their contexts and as a testament to the importance of the Fire Department. Old Engine Company 26, designed by prominent architects A.B. Mullett & Co. is designed in one of the earliest academic expressions of the Tudor Revival style in Washington. The building meets Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register with Architecture as the Area of Significance.

The Period of Significance for Old Engine Company 26 extends from 1908 when the firehouse was constructed until 1940 when Engine Company 26 moved out of the building and the building was converted into a church.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Originally named Chemical Company 3, this firehouse was built in 1908 as a result of a petition by the Northeastern Citizens' Suburban Association for better fire protection service for the new houses in the Langdon neighborhood in northeast Washington, D.C. Because the firehouse's service area was generally beyond the city's hydrant system, the station received a chemical company (i.e. apparatus that carried tanks of chemical fire suppressant¹). Shortly after its construction, in 1913, the station was renamed to accommodate Engine Company 26.

Engine Company 26 remained in the building for 27 years. However, in 1940, a year after major restructuring at the fire department, Engine Company 26 moved in with Truck Company 15 at 1340 Rhode Island Avenue, N.E., bringing the Engine Company 26 name with it. The city then proposed to adapt the "old" Engine Company 26 firehouse for use as a library, while the Rhode Island Avenue Citizens' Association pushed for its use as a community center. Instead, the city sold the building to a church and for several decades the building was occupied by the New Memorial Temple of Christ Apostolic Faith, Inc. The front apparatus doors were filled in and the large, apparatus room was converted into a sanctuary. In 2006, the building was purchased by the current owner, AAP Properties, LLC. Known today as Old Engine Company 26 in order to differentiate it from the still operating Engine Company 26, the building sits vacant and in fragile condition.

¹ *The Washington Post*, December 21 and July 31, 1908.

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Designed by the local firm of A.B. Mullett and Sons, one of the city's most prominent architectural firms, Engine Company 26 is among the most whimsical of Washington's "Eclectic" firehouses. The fact that this was a suburban area in 1908 strongly influenced the building's unique Tudor Revival-style design. It is the most domestic of D.C.'s firehouses, essentially a half-timbered 16th century manor house with obvious modifications for accommodating fire equipment. Nonetheless, at three stories and a sizeable footprint, it was undoubtedly the most imposing building in the neighborhood. Its very conspicuous presence likely encouraged further development in the neighborhood of principally frame residences by allaying fears of devastating fires.

Alfred B. Mullett served as Supervising Architect of the Treasury from 1866 until he opened his own office in 1874. In the 1880s his sons, Thomas and Frederick, joined their father's firm, despite their lack of formal architectural training. After Alfred's death in 1890, the sons continued the firm, designing row houses, apartment buildings, hotels, banks, office buildings and other commercial structures.² After his brother's death in 1924, Thomas had an active career designing several hotels and many private residences. He was the recognized authority on D.C. building regulations.

² Antoinette J. Lee, "Alfred B. Mullett (1834-1890)," *A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine*, Vol. 2, No. 2, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 1975.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5,000 square feet

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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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 June 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 AAP Properties, LLC

street & number 1160 Varnum Street, NE #208 telephone _____

city or town Washington, D.C. state _____ zip code 20017-2103

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 26 at 2715 22nd Street, NE occupies Lot 809 in Square 4253 in the District of Columbia.

Boundary Justification:

Engine Company 26 has been associated with Lot 809 since construction of the firehouse on the site in 1908.