

HISTORIC NAME: Assembly of Exempt Firemen
LOCATION: 213 Bloomfield St.

COMMON NAME: same
BLOCK/LOT 201/7

MUNICIPALITY: Hoboken

COUNTY: Hudson

USGS QUAD:

UTM REFERENCES:

OWNER/ADDRESS: City of Hoboken, N.J. 07030

Zone/Easting/Northing

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: c. 1870's

Source of Date:

Architect: Francis G. Himpler

Builder: unknown

Style: Italianate

Form/Plan Type: rectangular

Number of Stories: 3

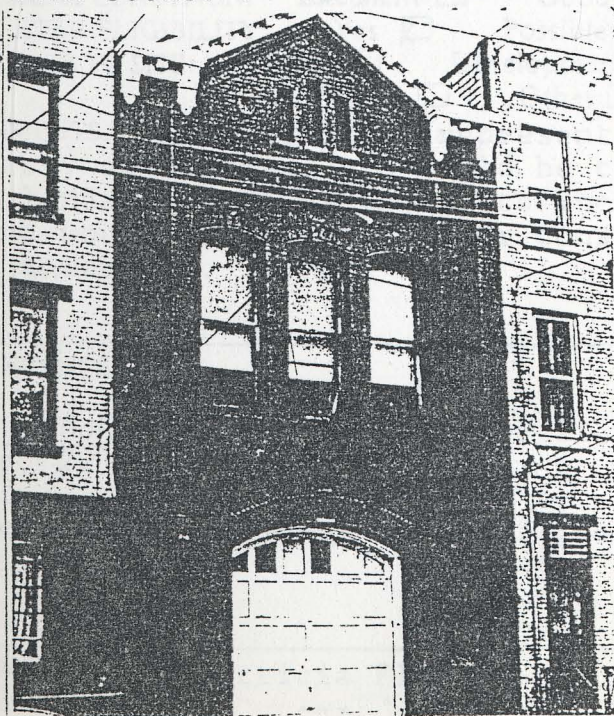
Foundation: brick

Exterior Wall Fabric: brick, stretcher bond.

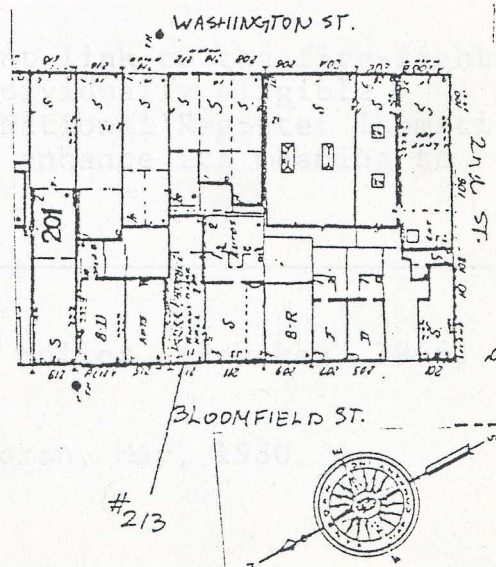
Fenestration: 3 equally-sized 1 over 1, arch-headed windows on 2nd fl.; lancet windows on 1st and 3rd fls.

Roof/Chimneys: peaked roof

Additional Architectural Description: Symmetrically-conceived facade, with central segmentally-arched engine door with molded brick trim. Lancet window is to the south of the engine door, and pedestrian door is to the north. Centered above engine door is a grouping of three, equally-sized 1 over 1, arch headed windows with segmentally-arched lintels and keystones. A sign identifying the building as the Assembly of Exempt Firemen is centered above this window grouping. It is a wood rectangular sign, with gold letters painted on a black background. A pedimented parapet rises to the third storey level, and terminates in a modillion cornice, with brackets at the gable ends. The Assembly Hall ceiling of the second floor features a plaster ceiling roundel with scenes of firemen at work. (The gas line is interpreted as fire hose.)



Map (Indicate North)



SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

The Assembly Hall is in a mid-block location on the east side of Bloomfield St., and is surrounded by chiefly residential buildings of similar height.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Urban ☒ Suburban ☐ Scattered Buildings ☐
 Open Space ☐ Woodland ☐ Residential ☒ Agricultural ☐ Village ☐
 Industrial ☐ Downtown Commerical ☐ Highway Commercial ☐ Other ☐

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Assembly of Exempt Firemen building is, together with 212 Park Ave., an early surviving fire house in Hoboken. Stylistically, it is unique in that it reflects both the late Italinat and Second Empire styles, which are styles not utilized in the city's other fire houses. It is an early example of the work of Hoboken architect Francis G. Himpler, who went on to design City Hall and Our Lady of Grace Church, and was an architect of state-wide prominence. The influence of the Italinat and suggestion of Second Empire motifs is notable, as the latter style dominated much of his later work. The building exhibits a high level of craftsmanship in its exterior detailing as well as interior woodwork (second floor) and plasterwork ceiling roundel. It is an architecturally intact example of a facility built for the Exempt Firemen, a group formed to assist the volunteer fire fighters of the city, which did not institute a paid fire department until 1891.

ORIGINAL USE: fire house PRESENT USE: same
 PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor ☐
 REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes ☒ Possible ☐ No ☐ Part of District ☐
 THREATS TO SITE: Roads ☐ Development ☐ Zoning ☐ Deterioration ☒
 No Threat ☐ Other ☐

COMMENTS. This building represents an important link to the fire-fighting history of Hoboken, and could be considered individually eligible for landmark designation. Its inclusion in a National Register Thematic Group would insure its proper conservation and enhance its meaning to the community.

REFERENCES:

The Hoboken of Yesterday, Vol. II, George Long Moller, (Hoboken, 1966), p. 22

Interview with Deputy Chief Officer James Halloran, May, 1980.

RECORDED BY: Patricia Florio
 ORGANIZATION: ---

DATE: February, 1983