

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

HISTORIC NAME: Engine Co. #2
LOCATION: 1313 Washington St.

COMMON NAME: same
BLOCK/LOT 245/2

MUNICIPALITY: Hoboken

COUNTY: Hudson

USGS QUAD:

UTM REFERENCES:

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

Zone/Easting/Northing

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: 1890

Source of Date: city financial records
(please see references)

Architect: French Dixon & DeSaldern

Builder: M.J. Connolly, mason; John
Meighan, carpenter

Style: Romanesque Revival

Form/Plan Type: rectangular, w. tower

Number of Stories: 3, with tower above

Foundation: approx. 4' high battered foundation of brownstone rusticated blocks

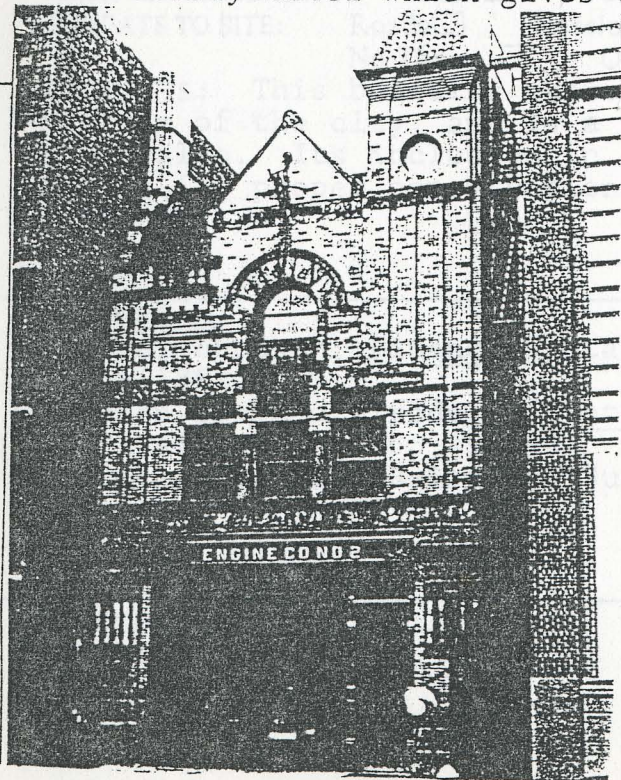
Exterior Wall Fabric: tan stretcher bond, carved brownstone coursing

Fenestration: 3 equally-sized
1 over 1, w. transoms above at 2nd fl.; 1 central 2 over 2,

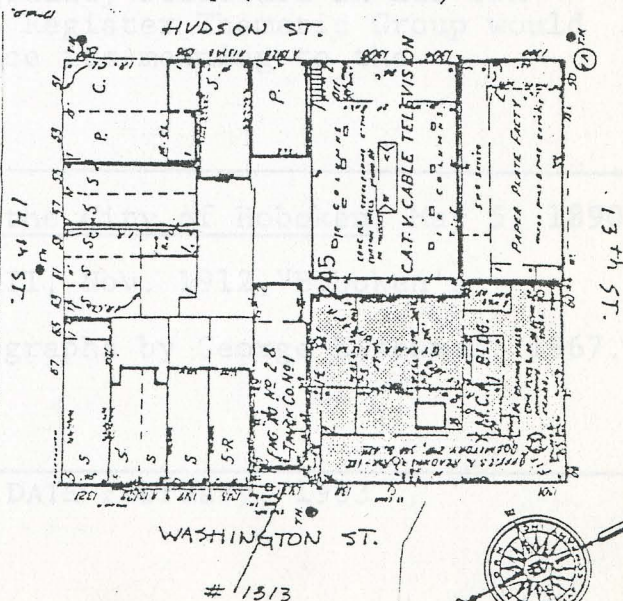
Roof/Chimneys: arch-headed window at third fl.; circular window in tower

roof of orange pantiles/1 chimney on northern wall

Additional Architectural Description: The fire engine door is flanked by cast-iron pilasters, set in rough-hewn brownstone blocks, which carry brownstone half-columns with foliate capitals. The window centered above the engine door at the second floor is flanked by stout brownstone pilasters which appear to bear the piers separating the transoms. The widening of the engine door aperture and the installation of a new door occurred in the early 1970's, an alteration which caused the removal of one cast-iron pier and glass transoms directly above the former door. The fascia and letters identifying the building as "Engine Co. No.2" are original to the firehouse. The facade bears a weathered limestone plaque at the third storey level which gives the construction date.



Map (Indicate North)



site is standard width, but firehouse is set back 12' from building line (according to local legend, the set-back was designed to protect pedestrians from tobacco-spitting of firemen)

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

SIGNIFICANCE: This firehouse replaced one which was built in 1880 and destroyed by a fire c. 1888. The location was integral to the northern waterfront's security, as the area was occupied by the Fletcher Steamship Co. at the river between 11th and 14th Sts. In 1886, the 14th St. ferry was established one block away. The new firehouse was built on land donated by the Stevens family. Architecturally, it is a fine example of the level of craftsmanship and design ability available locally in the 1890's. It represents the first instance of the integration of the firetower into the overall design scheme of a firehouse in Hoboken. It is stylistically unique as a public building in Hoboken; few buildings in the city were constructed in the Romanesque Revival with such a strong influence of the architect H.H. Richardson. It was one of the first group of public buildings undertaken by the city to be a self-consciously architectural statement. It has retained most of its original architectural features, and is the only building in Hoboken to have been recorded (photographically) for the Historic American Buildings Survey.

ORIGINAL USE: firehouse
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☒ Poor ☐
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes ☒ Possible ☐ No ☐ Part of District ☒
THREATS TO SITE: Roads ☐ Development ☐ Zoning ☐ Deterioration ☒
No Threa. ☐ Other ☐

COMMENTS: This building represents a tangible link to the fire-fighting history of the city, and is a landmark-quality structure in its own right also. Its inclusion in a National Register Thematic Group would insure its proper conservation and enhance its meaning to the community.

REFERENCES:
City of Hoboken, Financial Statement of the City of Hoboken, May 5, 1890 to 1891.
Hoboken Board of Trade, Bulletin, Vol. III, Nov. 1912, "Hoboken's Firefighters," pp. 91-95.
Historic American Buildings Survey photographs by George Eisenman, 1967.

RECORDED BY: Patricia Florio
ORGANIZATION: ---

DATE: February, 1983