

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO.

HISTORIC NAME: Engine Co. # 4
LOCATION: 212 Park Ave.

COMMON NAME: same
BLOCK/LOT 165/29

MUNICIPALITY: Hoboken

COUNTY: Hudson

USGS QUAD:

UTM REFERENCES:

OWNER/ADDRESS: Arthur Tsuchiya
212 Park Ave., Hoboken 07030

Zone/Easting/Northing

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: late 1870's

Source of Date: visual inspection

Architect: unknown

Builder: unknown

Style: vernacular Italianate

Form/Plan Type: rectangular

Number of Stories: 2

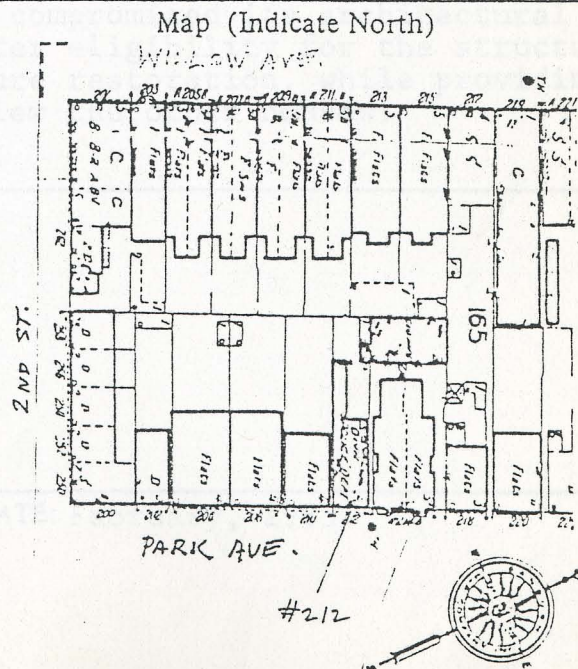
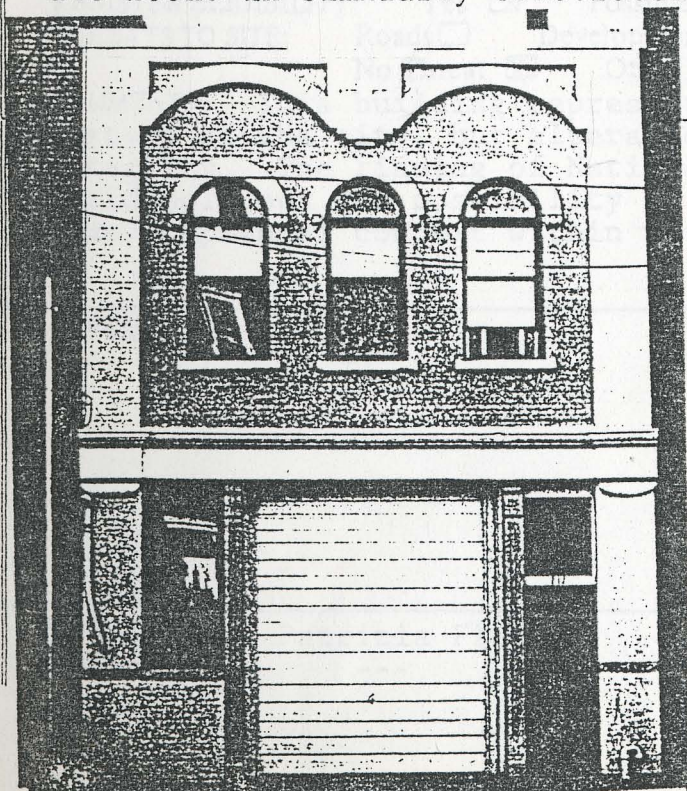
Foundation: brick

Exterior Wall Fabric: brick, stretcher bond

Fenestration: 3 bays on 2nd fl.: 1 over 1, ^{originally} arch-headed; window on
1st fl.: to left of engine door. has been bricked in.

Roof/Chimneys: flat roof

Additional Architectural Description: 2nd storey windows have raised brick, arched lintels which terminate in ornamented brackets. The fire engine door is centered on the facade and is flanked by fluted cast-iron piers. The identifying sign/plaque of the firehouse spans the entire facade horizontally, and projects at either end to follow the brick piers of the north and south sides of the facade. The cornice was removed at an indeterminate date, leaving raised brick support arches below the parapet. This suggests that the cornice originally in place followed the arches, and may have been ornamented with foliate brackets, as are found in similarly-constructed buildings of the city.



Firehouse is located approximately mid-block, and is flush with the building line.

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

SIGNIFICANCE:

This is believed to be the oldest extant firehouse in Hoboken, a vestige of the earlier two-storey firehouse buildings of the 1850's and 1860's. These buildings typically had one or two apertures for engine doors. Together with 213 Bloomfield St., its dimensions were principally geared toward accomodating the hand-pumped steam engines, which were dragged to the scene of fires by the firemen.

Park Avenue was first known as "Meadow St." due to the proximity within one block of the salt meadow to the west which defined the edge of built-upon land. It is believed for this reason that this building was known as the "Meadow Company" in the early days of the Fire Department.

ORIGINAL USE: firehouse

PRESENT USE: residence

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 a tangible link to the fire-fighting history of the city, but alterations have compromised its architectural integrity. The finding of National Register eligibility for the structure would hold out the possibility of its future restoration, while providing a developmental context within which to view the other houses.

REFERENCES:

RECORDED BY: Patricia Florio
ORGANIZATION: ---

DATE: February, 1983