NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 an 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 Fire Hall No. 1

other names/site number Germantown Fire Hall; Swint Sr., George W., Engine Company No. 1

2. Location

street & number 1312 Third Avenue North N/A☐ not for publication

city or town Nashville N/A☐ vicinity

state TN code TN county Davidson code 037 zip code 37208

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for 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.)

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr. 6-9-08

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

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 the 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

Fire Hall No. 1
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Fire Halls of Nashville, Tennessee, 1860-1936

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: fire station

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD; METAL; STONE

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

See Continuation Sheet.

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.

Criteria Considerations N/A
(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance
1936

Significant Dates
1936

Significant Person
(complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☒ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:
Metropolitan Historical Commission

Fire Hall No. 1
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.26 acres Nashville West 308 NE

UTM References
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	519191	4003559	3			
2				4			

☐ 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 Scarlett C. Miles / Planner
organization Metropolitan Historical Commission date February 4, 2008
street & number 3000 Granny White Pike telephone 615-862-7970
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37204

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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 Neighborhoods Resource Center (contact John Stern, Executive Director)
street & number Post Office Box 100941 telephone 615-782-8212
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37224-0941

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 listing. 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

Description

Constructed in 1936, Fire Hall No. 1 is located just north of Nashville's Central Business District in Davidson County, Tennessee. The fire hall is located just beyond the boundaries of the Germantown Historic District (NR 08/01/1979). The fire hall faces southwest and is located along Third Avenue North, one of the original main corridors of this northern area of Nashville and known as North College Street until 1904. The building has only had minor alterations since its construction, and it retains much of its original design and setting. Character-defining exterior features of the building include the cross-gable roof, the projecting gabled bay along the façade, and prominent Tudor arches, such as the wide Tudor arch above the apparatus doorway. The original casement windows, decorative stonework around windows and doorways, and bargeboard along the eaves are equally distinctive characteristics of the fire hall. Within the building, the sloped floor of the former engine bay and the washable wainscoting tiles indicate the functionality of the fire hall. The city sidewalk and curb cuts are new, but appear to replicate the materials and slope historically present in front of the fire hall. Empty lots are now found on both sides of the building where houses once stood.

Although it is a municipal building, the one-and-one-half story Fire Hall No. 1 was designed in a Tudor Revival-styled residential manner. It has a concrete block foundation, brick veneer on the walls, cross-gable asphalt roof with exposed rafters, and interior and exterior wall brick chimneys. The main entrances to the building are located within the asymmetrical southwest façade. The larger of the two Tudor arched entries originally accommodated the firefighting apparatus while the smaller entry served pedestrians. Windows in the building are the original multi-light metal casement design. Many of the windows feature limestone window surrounds with a quoin-like design. An asphalt composite roof has replaced the original terracotta tiles.

Limestone Tudor arches located within the two gables on the southwestern façade identify the entrances to the building. The main pedestrian entrance of the building is recessed within a central projecting gabled bay. The walls of this projecting bay have setoff buttresses and the exterior doorway is decorated with a hood mold and label stop along the arch. The flooring of the entry is stone, with a single step leading up from the sidewalk and another step within the entry leading into the building. The wooden entry door has a single light and is protected by a metal security door. A small arched window is located above the pedestrian entry. The garage entry for the firefighting apparatus is located within a wide Tudor arch to the north of the pedestrian entrance. A metal roll-top garage door has replaced the original pair of bi-fold doors. A quatrefoil and other decorative elements are found in the limestone lintel; limestone banding extends across the entry below the hood molding. Paired eight-light casement windows are located above the apparatus doorway. Bargeboards with decorative cutouts and central pendants are found above both entries. The bricks in the gable field above the garage entry is arranged in a herringbone pattern, while the remainder of the façade is running bond. The southern bay contains a trio of ten-light casement windows with limestone surrounds and covered with metal security screens.

Pier buttresses with decorative arches are found at the northern and southern corners of the southwest façade. The original flag pole has been moved to the northern corner of the façade and a gas meter now rests in its original location.

The southeastern elevation consists of a gable end wall with a pitched-roof wing from which a hipped roof extends below the rear gable. The gabled wall has an exterior wall chimney with sloped limestone set-offs. Paired six-light casement windows flank the chimney. The remaining six windows on the first story are three-light hopper windows. All of the windows retain the original limestone sills and feature lintels created from an arrangement of soldier bricks with blocks of limestone placed at the corners. The bargeboard in the gable end does not have cutouts like those found on the façade but it does have a central pendant. A large projecting louvered vent supported by curved brackets is located in the gable field. A window is found below this vent, with seven lights surrounding a wooden panel. This window has a limestone lintel and a limestone surround. A band of soldier bricks runs across the gable field below the second floor window. Windows along the first story are covered with metal security screens. Three eight-light casement windows, partially below grade, are visible along the northeastern, gable roof wing. Each window has metal security grating that covers the window portions above grade and the concrete window wells.

On the northeastern elevation, a hipped roof extends beyond the gable end of the main roof structure. The gable field contains a louvered vent. Concrete stairs lead below grade to a wooden door in the basement of the building. Although covered by a metal security door, the entrance is actually painted and nailed shut. Metal pipe handrails are found on either side of the stairs. An eight-light casement window is located to the south of the basement stairs. This window is partially below grade and is protected with a combination of metal security grating identical to that found on the basement windows of the southeastern elevation. Concrete stairs lead from the gravel parking area up to an entry on the first story. The wooden paneled door with three lights is protected by a metal security door and a flat-roof canopy supported by scroll-sawn brackets. A three-light hopper window and a six-light casement window are located to the south of the entry and a six-light casement window is located to the north. These windows have limestone sills and are protected with metal security grating. The original coal chute door is still present to the north of the main stairs but retains only limited functionality.

A concrete walkway extends across the northwestern elevation. The eastern-most end features a six-light casement window. Paired three-light hopper windows are located to the west. Continuing west, concrete stairs lead to an entry on the first story. The wooden door is protected by a metal security door and a flat shed roof canopy with copper flashing. This door no longer functions as it has been sealed off on the interior. A chimney extends through the pitched roof and juts out beyond the exterior wall. Continuing west, four three-light hopper windows are evenly spaced across the remainder of this elevation. All of the windows have limestone sills. The hopper windows also have lintels consisting of solider bricks and limestone corner blocks. The gable field

of this elevation features a prominent louvered vent supported by curved brackets. An awning window surrounded by eight lights is located below the vent. This window has a limestone surround. The bargeboard in the gable does not have any cutouts but does feature a central pendant. A band of soldier bricks extends across the bottom of the gable field. Unlike the southeastern and northeastern elevations, there are no windows on the basement level.

The current interior floor plan remains very similar to the original floor plan. The main pedestrian entrance on the southwest façade opens into the former watch room. A fireplace is located along the southern wall and is flanked by built-in shelving that has tudor arch openings. Windows are located above these shelves and along the southwest wall. The fireplace has salt-glazed tiles and is topped by a mantelshelf that extends over the shelves. Wainscoting of salt-glazed tiles is found throughout this room and the remainder of the building, with the exception of the residential area (bedrooms and connecting hallway). The same salt-glazed tile is used for the window sills in the bedrooms, where wainscoting is not found. Modern tiles are found in the ceiling in the watch room, garage, conference room, and in the hallway that extends northeast to the rear of the building. The remainder of the building retains the original plaster walls and ceilings, with the exception of the kitchen, which is covered entirely in wooden paneling.

The overhead door on the façade opens into a garage area, the former engine bay, with a concrete floor. The garage and watch room are separated by the original wooden paneled and glass door with sidelights. The garage has been divided and a conference room created with the addition of a wall and door. The exact date of the conversion of the engine bay into a conference room is unknown, but it is thought to have occurred around the time the Davidson County Soil Conservation office moved into the building in the 1990s. The sloping floor of this side of the building is still intact. The floor slopes southwest toward the apparatus doorway along the façade. The sloping floor allowed the fire engine to accelerate easier from the engine bay with more momentum. It also aided with water drainage when cleaning the engine and draining the hose. Drains are still present in the concrete floor of the garage. The slope remains intact in the conference room, but becomes level near the eastern end of the room near the entrance to the residential corridor. The conference room has been carpeted, but the garage area retains its uncovered concrete floor.

The original residential corridor leading off from the watch room remains essentially intact. The corridor is accessed from the watch room through a wood and glass door with transom above. The door appears original. Along the southern wall of this central hallway are five rooms that were once used as the sleeping quarters for the fire hall. The entries into the bedrooms feature transoms above all the doors, though some with the hardware painted closed and others with just the frame intact. The multi-use bathroom is located at the end of the corridor and contains twelve large, heavy-duty dual compartment lockers. Although the lockers appear to be original, the remaining plumbing fixtures are suspected to be replacements. The locker room is accessible from the central hallway and from the eastern end of the conference room. The northern wall of

the central hallway has one doorway at the western end near the watch room. This opens into the modern-day conference room area. A hallway at the eastern end of the conference room, going east, leads to the closet (created by the addition of a wall and door), eat-in kitchen, and, by turning to the south, to a small restroom. The exact date of the conversion of this area into a small closet is unknown, but it is thought to have occurred around the time the Davidson County Soil Conservation office moved into the building in the 1990s. The eat-in kitchen, or mess hall, features extensive modern wooden paneling. A door in this corridor leads to a stairway to the basement.

At present, the basement is only accessible by concrete stairs inside the building. The concrete basement area consists primarily of a large open room that once served as an exercise room for the firefighters. A wall on the north side separates the space once used for coal storage and the boiler system from the main room. A toilet, sink, and fiberglass shower and a fenced storage area now occupy this space. On the south side, behind a brick, load-bearing wall, a dirt-floored area contains the original water supply line and tank storage space. The original iron pipes and electrical circuitry are visible throughout the basement. The attic area in Fire Hall No. 1 is unfinished. The original wall materials, terracotta tiles and bricks, and the wood rafters and uncovered floor joists are visible.

The current owner, Neighborhoods Resource Center, plans to convert the fire hall into offices. Renovation plans will address the main floor, ground floor and second floor (attic retrofit).

Statement of Significance

Fire Hall No. 1 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteron C for its architectural significance. The former fire hall is a notable example of the early 20th century application of Tudor Revival-styled residential design to a municipal building in Nashville. The building has not been extensively altered and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. It features a steeply pitched roof, intersecting gables, and multi-light casement windows. It is similar in form to other small, residential-style fire halls built in Nashville as the city annexed growing areas in the early 20th century. In particular, it very closely resembles Nashville's Engine Company No. 16, also known as the 21st Avenue South Fire Hall, which is located in a Tudor Revival-style building and is still in use as a fire station.[1] Tudor Revival was a very popular style of residential design in early 20th century suburbs and its characteristic elements of cross gables and wide, Tudor arches translated easily to fire halls intended to harmonize with their residential surroundings. These features helped to disguise the large garage doors and the practical needs of the fire hall. One feature that was incorporated into Fire Hall No. 1 that was not present in the 21st Avenue South Fire Hall is the slope of the floor in the engine room.

Fire Hall No. 1 also holds significance for government and Nashville's suburban growth and community development under Criterion A. The first fire hall built on the present location of Fire Hall No. 1 was constructed in the late 1860s to serve the growing community of northern Nashville known as Germantown.[2] The fire hall was a two story engine house with two sliding poles, an alarm bell in the tower, and accommodations for seven firefighters and three horses.[3] Located near a major thoroughfare and one-time streetcar line, the fire hall served the Germantown community during its periods of growth and was able to extend its services to other areas of the city when needed. When the city of Nashville embarked upon a building program for new fire halls across the city in the early 1930s, through the assistance of PWA funds, the original building was demolished to make way for a new "modern" fire hall. Though the new fire hall would continue to serve the same community, it would do so from a smaller scale building closer in appearance to its

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[1] The 21st Avenue South Fire Hall is a contributing resource to the Hillsboro-West End Historic District, NR 12/23/1993. Additionally, it was designated as an individual Local Historic Landmark in Nashville on July 24, 1999. <http://www.nashville.gov/mhc/local_landmarks.htm> accessed February 4, 2008.

[2] In 1880, this fire hall located on North College Street in the Ninth Ward was known as Hamilton Fire Company No. 2. *Annual Reports of the City Treasurer and Recorder, The Chief of the Fire Department, Captain of Police, and the Superintendent and First Engineer of the Water Works for the Fiscal Year Ending in October 1, 1880*,16.

[3] By 1886, the company was known as Engine Company No. 1. *Nashville: Charter for Its Government, Together with Reports of Departments for the Fiscal Year Ending October 1, 1886*, 39.; By 1897, the company carried the full name of Hugh McCrea Engine Company No. 1. Sanborn Maps: 1897, Vol. 1, 2C, Sheet 55 and 1914, Vol. 1, 2C, Sheet 70.

neighbors. Historic Fire Hall No. 1 meets the registration requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Fire Halls of Nashville, Tennessee, 1892-1936."

Located north of Nashville's Central Business District, present-day Germantown is bounded by Jefferson Street on the south, Hume Street on the north, Rosa L. Parks Boulevard on the west, and Third Avenue North on the east, although the original area of settlement was as far east as the Cumberland River.[4] The land was granted to James McGavock in recognition of his service in the Revolutionary War and by the 1840s, the German community in the area was beginning to flourish, blending its German heritage with Irish, Italian, Swiss, and Jewish neighbors. In the 1850s and 1860s, as the residential base of the city continued to expand northward, David McGavock divided and sold land in the area. The land was platted in 1858 and incorporated into the Nashville city limits in 1865 as the Ninth Ward. Though the distance was manageable by foot, a mule-drawn streetcar line, the McGavock and Mount Vernon, extending north from downtown along College Street (Third Avenue) and winding all the way to Saint Cecilia Academy beyond the corporation limits, enabled many Germantown residents to work in the Central Business District and reside in a suburban community. Many of the prosperous merchants of the city lived in the Germantown community. The area became known as "Germantown" in the 1870s when a large influx of German immigrants moved into the area, which was already home to many established German residents. Today, the large brick townhouses standing adjacent to woodframe workers' cottages and shotgun houses indicate the historic social diversity of the area. Likewise, the residential, commercial, and institutional buildings represent a variety of architectural styles, ranging from Italianate, Queen Anne, and Eastlake designs to late 19th century vernacular shotgun and turn of the century houses.

Germantown also became known as "Butchertown" because of the area's large number of residents who slaughtered meat in their backyards or in nearby lots and sold to neighbors, local markets, or the Nashville Market House. Though many Germantown residents worked in downtown Nashville, the churches, schools, and corner stores in the area met many of their religious, educational, and social needs. The Church of the Assumption, a German Catholic congregation, opened in the community in 1859. A Methodist congregation built a church on Eighth Avenue North (today's Rosa L. Parks Boulevard) in 1867, but eventually settled on Monroe Street in 1906. Another German Methodist Church (Barth Memorial) was founded on North College Street in 1854. By 1880 about 60 percent of the city's German community lived in this bustling neighborhood.[5] Tennessee Manufacturing Company (NR 6/25/1999) opened a large

[4] Rosa L. Parks Boulevard was known as Eighth Avenue North until the 105th Tennessee General Assembly (2007-2008) enacted the name change. Governor Phil Bredesen signed Public Chapter No. 400 into law on June 11, 2007.
<http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/bills/currentga/Chapter/PC0400.pdf> by way of <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/> accessed April 2, 2008.

[5] Don Doyle, *Nashville in the New South: 1880-1930* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1985), 104.

cotton mill in the area in 1872, encouraging the development of the "cheap cottages" of a working-class neighborhood around the factory that imposed upon the homes built earlier by prosperous Germans. A red light district grew up along Criddle Street, furthering the decline of the "middle-class aura of respectability Germantown once claimed."[6] By the beginning of the 20th century, small butchering businesses began to close as refrigeration technology improved. The large meat-packing plants, many formed from consolidated small businesses, began to infringe upon the pleasant residential atmosphere of the community. Additionally, the onset of World War I spurred anti-German sentiment, and residents began to disperse to other neighborhoods. With the expansion of streetcar service and advances in motor transportation, many of the residents moved from "walk-to-town" communities like Germantown to more distant, suburban areas. Much of the community became rental property and some buildings were destroyed with the onset of the interstate. In the 1970s, new residents were drawn to the area's history and architecture and began to revitalize the community one building at a time. Since that time, the neighborhood has utilized a variety of redevelopment tools to help continue the renewal and restoration set in motion in the 1970s.

Though the city's earlier fire halls were built to house firefighters, horse-drawn firefighting apparatus, and horses (stables, feed, etc.), historic Fire Hall No. 1 and its contemporaries were designed without the need to accommodate horses. The Nashville Fire Department was completely motorized by the 1920s and horses were no longer needed to drive the firefighting apparatus. Elimination of accommodations for the horses and horse-driven equipment enabled Nashville, like other cities, to construct smaller fire halls that would fit into their surroundings and virtually disappear into their neighborhoods. During this phase in municipal fire hall design, fire halls were not meant to stand out as the imposing institutional structures of years past. Rather, these new fire halls were designed to fit in with the dwellings surrounding them. In fact, they were referred to as residential fire halls. This term did not simply refer to the fact that fire fighters resided temporarily on site during their work shift, but rather referred to the residential appearance of the structure.[7] Landscaping features also added to the elements of disguise and helped convey the feeling of "home" for the fire fighters and their neighbors.

The construction of Fire Hall No. 1 directly demonstrates this transition in municipal fire hall design. The previous fire hall was a two story structure built in 1868. A 1914 Sanborn map indicates that the hall had a tower that was 70 feet tall. The two story building contained stables in the rear with a one story wing along the side. As many as eight men and five horses worked out of the station.[8] When plans for the new building were announced in 1934, the city was waiting on PWA funds for the demolition. The fire hall with Gothic arched windows and a bell tower, once

[6] Ibid., 92.

[7] "Lockeland's Splendid New Fire Hall," *Nashville Banner*, 14 November 1914, available in *Nashville Fire Department Scrapbook: 1895-1937*, 78, RG11, C3, D6, Metropolitan Government Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

[8] Sanborn Maps: 1914, Vol. 1, 2C, Sheet 70.

home to such horses as "Tom" and "Joe," was to be replaced with a "modern, home-type of building"-- a bungalow-- as "All new fire halls are being constructed to fit in with residential architecture nearby."[9] Old Fire Hall No. 1 was the oldest fire hall constructed by the department. Prior to that time, volunteer companies worked out of the market house or rented other buildings. The company to first reside in the fire hall consisted of a captain, four men, and several runners called in on emergencies. Demolition finally began in July 1935 to make way for the new building.[10]

Fire Hall No. 1 is one of five extant historic fire halls in Nashville that were designed in a one or one-and-one-half story residential manner. Although one of these fire halls was designed without an obvious reference to a particular architectural style, the four remaining fire halls (Germantown's included) were designed in the Tudor Revival style. However, two additional fire halls also built during this period, but no longer extant, were designed in the Colonial Revival and Spanish Eclectic styles. Engine Company No. 17's Colonial Revival-styled fire hall of 1930 easily resembled its residential neighbors. Engine Company No. 3's Spanish Eclectic-styled fire hall was completed in stucco in 1923 and also featured a tower as part of its design. Both buildings were residential in appearance.

Engine Company No. 1 was one of five fire companies to occupy new fire halls in 1936. These new buildings were completed under the $150,000 PWA fire hall improvement docket. Completed with funds from the PWA, according to one newspaper article, Fire Hall No. 1 was one example of how Nashville was using PWA projects for "changing the scenery for the betterment of civic beauty and service."[11] The fire hall, constructed in the "most modern type of bungalow design," was planned to house two trucks and two crews with a "modern" workshop in the basement.[12] The attractive, traditional bungalow design of the fire hall did not prohibit the use of modern equipment.

After the opening of the five new fire halls in 1936, Nashville did not conduct another widespread fire hall building program until the 1960s, around the time of the creation of the metropolitan government.[13] By the late 1970s, the city's expanded size again required construction of new fire

[9] Emily Towe, "Old Fire Station, Built in 1868, To Be Replaced Soon," *Tennessean*, 22 July 1934, available in Fire Department Records, Fire Halls, 010303, Box 1, Folder 28, Metropolitan Government Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

[10] "#1 Tumbles," newspaper clipping, source unknown, July 1935, available in *Scrapbook*, 392.; The station was named George Swint Hall by 1937. George Zepp, "At age 75, 21st Avenue fire station still serves," *Tennessean*, 9 February 2005.

[11] Untitled newspaper clipping, source unknown, 12 March 1935, available in *Scrapbook*, 386.

[12] Ibid.

[13] The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County was established on April 1, 1963.

halls in many areas beyond the urban core. A new Fire Hall No. 1 opened in 1978 at 130 Broadmoor Drive in northern east Nashville. Engine Company No. 1, along with its equipment, moved to the new fire hall at that time. Although the fire department headquarters were located just several blocks away, some residents in Germantown were concerned about the removal of the engine company from their neighborhood. In response, the Nashville Fire Department temporarily moved a chemical truck to the fire hall along with a small crew. Shortly thereafter, the fire hall became the home of Engine Company No. 10, which had previously operated out of the headquarters building. Engine Company No. 10 remained in the fire hall until the early 1990s when it moved to a new building on Old Hickory Boulevard in southeast Nashville. Reportedly, the Nashville Fire Department used the property for storage until the late 1990s when the Davidson County Soil Conservation office moved into the building.[14] The Neighborhoods Resource Center purchased the property in June 2007 and plans to use the building for offices and community meeting space. They plan on renovating the building using the Investment Tax Credits and following the Secretary of Interior's Standards.

[14] Nashville Fire Department Deputy Chief William Curran, telephone interview by Scarlett C. Miles, March 21, 2008.; Nashville Fire Department Assistant Chief (Ret) Wayne Vick, telephone interviews by Scarlett C. Miles, March 21, 2008 and March 24, 2008.

Bibliography:

"Annual Reports of the City Treasurer and Recorder, The Chief of the Fire Department, Captain of Police, and the Superintendent and First Engineer of the Water Works for the Fiscal Year Ending in October 1, 1880." Metropolitan Government Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Curran, William, Nashville Fire Department Deputy Chief. Telephone interview conducted by Scarlett C. Miles. March 21, 2008.

Doyle, Don. *Nashville in the New South: 1880-1930*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1985.

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Germantown Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, December 1978.

"Insurance Maps of Nashville". New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1914.

Metropolitan Historical Commission files - http://www.nashville.gov/mhc/local_landmarks.htm. Accessed January 8, 2008.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

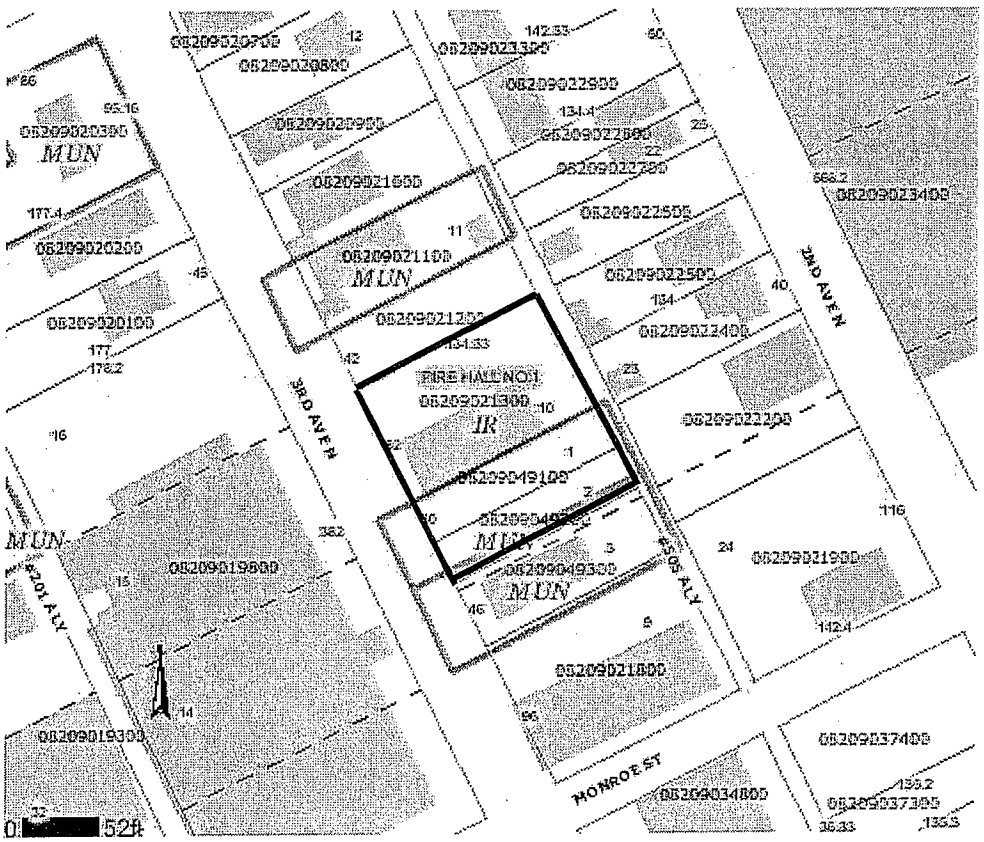
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description:

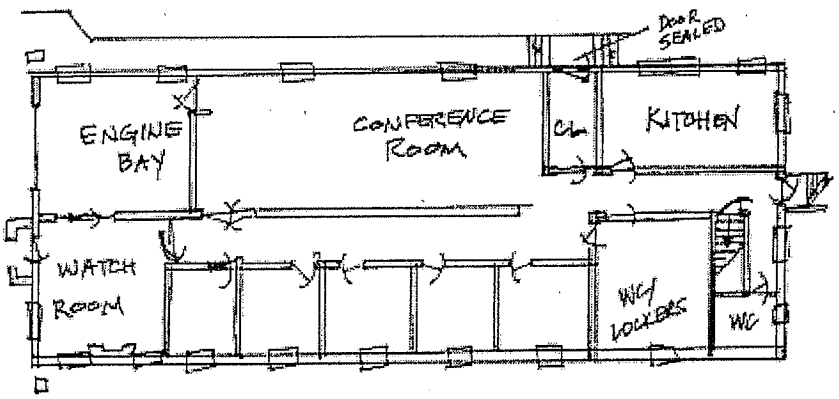
The boundary for Fire Hall No. 1 is all of parcel numbers 213, 491, and 492 on Davidson County tax map 82-9. This parcel includes 0.26 acres and is bounded on the north and south by lot lines, on the east by alley No. 505, and on the west by Third Avenue North.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The boundary for Fire Hall No. 1 includes the fire hall building currently associated with the property. The boundary includes the two lots south of the building. These lots were not originally associated with the fire hall, but by c.1950 they were being used as a parking area for the fire hall.



Fire Hall No. 1
Germantown Fire Hall
1312 Third Avenue North, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee
Photos by: Scarlett C. Miles, Metropolitan Historical Commission
Date: September 13, 2007
Digital copies: Tennessee Historical Commission

Photo No. 1 of 15: Main (southwest) façade, view to the northeast
Photo No. 2 of 15: Gables along facade, view to the southeast
Photo No. 3 of 15: Northwest elevation/southwest façade, view to the southeast
Photo No. 4 of 15: Southeast elevation, view to the northeast
Photo No. 5 of 15: Northeast elevation, view to the northwest
Photo No. 6 of 15: Northwest elevation, view to the southeast
Photo No. 7 of 15: Interior, view of watch room fireplace
Photo No. 8 of 15: Interior, view from watch room along residential corridor
Photo No. 9 of 15: Interior, view from engine bay into watch room
Photo No. 10 of 15: Interior, view of bedroom
Photo No. 11 of 15: Interior, view of lockers
Photo No. 12 of 15: Interior, view of conference room (former engine bay)
Photo No. 13 of 15: Interior, view of kitchen area of "mess hall"
Photo No. 14 of 15: Interior, view of hallway northeast of conference room
Photo No. 15 of 15: Interior, view of basement

Fire Hall No. 1
Germantown Fire Hall
1312 Third Avenue North, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee
Floor Plan – NOT TO SCALE