

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic CAMP CURTIN FIRE STATION

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 2504 North Sixth Street not for publication

city, town Harrisburg vicinity of congressional district 17th

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Dauphin code 043

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Harrisburg, c/o Mayor

street & number 423 Walnut Street

city, town Harrisburg vicinity of state Pennsylvania

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dauphin County Courthouse

street & number Front and Market Streets

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date April, 1980 federal  state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at 2504 North Sixth Street, the Camp Curtin Fire Station is a two story brick structure. The brick of the front and rear (north and south) facades is laid in flemish bond, the side elevations (east and west) are laid in stretcher bond. The structure is rectangular in shape and measures 38 feet by 46 feet. The height of the building is approximately 27 feet to the top of the bell tower roof.

A square wooden bell tower sits over the center of the front facade roof. The bell tower has a hipped shingle roof with projecting eaves with decorative brackets. The bell tower has four stilted segmental arch openings with wooden keystone on its four sides. Access to the bell tower is provided only through the hose tower and over the roof of the main structure.

Windows in the Station have flat arches with vertical joints over lintels and brownstone sills. Window frames are of a painted wood double hung type with 6 panes on the upper sash and single pane on the lower sash. These windows appear to be original because the configuration of the windows are identical to the ones on the photographs taken at the time of the dedication of the building, and because of the conditions of the windows.

The pumper entrances are equipped with the painted wooden paneled motorized pull-up doors with horizontal glazing in the middle. These are not the original, and the old photographs show that these openings had double swing wood panel doors with 15 panes approximately over 4 feet over the ground level, there is no transom. The entrance on the facade was also wood panel single swing door with a transom. The existing door is also not the original. The original door had glazing with the same pattern as pumper entrance doors. Only small changes have been made to the station since its construction.

The rear (western) wall and the hose tower clearly appears to be a later day addition. These portions are built of bricks which are different from the ones used for the other portions of the building in terms of color, size and shape. The laying method applied for this part is stretcher bond, and the lighter color mortar without special pigment mix is used. No written materials which record the time of alterations have been found. However, it is believed that these alterations were made at around 1928 - 1929 according to the interview conducted retired members of the Fire Company No. 13.

The first floor of the building is a large one room <sup>AREA</sup> which stored pumpers. A significant original element in this room is the painted tin ceiling with pressed decorative floral patterns, which is mounted at 14 feet 1 inch height from the floor. Grid patterns were carved on the concrete floor at two locations in front of two pumper entrances to provide enough friction for horses when they respond to the alarm and left the building.

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The second floor of the building houses three rooms: a dormitory, a meeting room and a kitchen. The meeting room and the kitchen were substantially altered, and gypsum drop ceiling and contemporary cooking equipment were added. The dormitory was less altered. The skylight in the middle of the ceiling, which provided an access to the bell tower, was completely closed.

The other major architectural features are the painted metal spiral staircase which connects the floors from the basement to the third floor, and the firemen's sliding pole, brass pipe, which is located on the south west corner of the dormitory and the pumper garage. Both of these elements are the original.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1910

Builder/Architect

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located at its original site in the Tenth Ward, a neighborhood of uptown Harrisburg, the Camp Curtin Fire Station continues to exist in an area of late 19th and early 20th century residential structures. The Camp Curtin Station is well preserved and designed for horse drawn pumpers. Camp Curtin Fire Station illustrates the Italianate architectural style which is used for other fire stations in the City such as Hope Fire Station. Some characteristics of Italianate Style such as, simple cubic block massing, rather rigidly symmetrical facade, smooth wall surface without any significant projections, are well demonstrated in this building. In addition to these characteristics, simple but well proportioned composition of the facade adds to its visual quality.

The Tenth Ward of the City, which lay at the north of Maclay Street first appeared in the census in 1900. The population was 50,157 in the City and 1,906 in the Tenth Ward. According to the map of 1901, the Tenth Ward was bounded by Cameron Street to the east, western bank of Susquehanna River to the West, Maclay Street to the south, and the line where Division Street is currently aligned to the north.

Between the years of 1900 and 1910, the population of the City increased from 50,167 to 64,186, and approximately one quarter of this population increase occurred in the Tenth Ward where the population increased from 1,906 to 5,173.

The Patriot of May 10, 1911 carried an article on the "impressive increase of the City's property valuations" by wards on its front page. The following is the quotation from this article.

"The statement issued in 1910 placed the valuation at \$46,257,434. This year it is \$47,274,752. The greatest increase by wards is in the Ninth and Tenth, both of which were boosted more than \$200,000.

Other documents which indicate the time when this area at the north of Maclay Street was developed were the sewer maps and the water main maps of the City. The water main along North Sixth Street at the north of Maclay Street was constructed in 1897, and the major network of the water main of the area were completed at around 1930's. The first sewer line construction in the area was made in 1901, and the sewer system networks were completed expeditiously at around 1915 much before the water systems were completed.

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These documents would explain the status of the intensive development of the City at that time, which necessitated the construction of the fire station in the Tenth Ward.

A total of eight fire stations were built before or early 1900 in the City. These are Hope, Reily, Pleasant View, Allison, Shamrock, Riverside, Royal and Camp Curtin Fire Station. Construction dates and the other information of these fire stations are as follows:

Name	Location	Date of construction	Ownership
Hope	606 N. 2nd St., Center City District	1858	City
Reily	1820 N. 4th St., Uptown District	1899	Private
Camp Curtin	250 <sup>4</sup> N. 6th St., Uptown District	1911	Private (SURE, Inc.)
Pleasant View	2016 State St., Hill District	1928	Private
Allison	315 S. 14th St., Hill District	1909	Volunteer Fire Co.
Shamrock	1400 Herr St., Hill District	1908	City (for sale)
Riverside	3200 N. 4th St., Uptown District	1923	Volunteer Fire Co.
Royal	2048 Derry St., Hill District	1923	Private

Two more fire stations which were built in 1937 and 1954 these were still actively used until 1980, when the City built two new fire stations, and consolidated the fire station network into four centralized locations.

All of the eight stations which were built more than 50 years ago appear to have potential for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Currently only Hope Fire Station is receiving the appropriate protection under local and federal regulations because of its location in the historic district listed on the National Register and Act 167 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The idea to apply to the National Register for the thematic nomination of these eight fire stations was considered, however was abandoned, because of the separate, particularly predominantly private ownership of the fire stations. It was determined by the City and the SURE, Inc. that the thorough investigation of the historical and architectural qualities of these fire stations is a task which must be carried out in the future by the respective owners with the assistance provided by the City upon the owner's request. It should be noted that Camp Curtin Fire Station should receive the higher priority for the entry on the National Register because of its architectural quality, its well preserved condition, which still maintain its original characteristics

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intact, and the commitment made by the SURE neighborhood residents for the preservation and reuse of the building for community services. The nomination of Camp Curtin Fire Station to the National Register and the reuse project which is planned to follow the nomination would serve as a demonstration model for historic preservation efforts with the rest of the fire stations.

# 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property .16

Quadrangle name Harrisburg West, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 18 338980 4461120  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the SW corner of 6th St. & Reel's Lane; then in a S direction along 6th St. for 46 ft. to the line of property of J. M. Saul; then in a W direction at right angles to 6th St. and by line of property 110 ft. to Truner St; 77 ft. to Reel Lane; 109 ft. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries to beginning point.

state code county code  
state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Behney/ Sakura Namioka

organization Sure Inc./City of Harrisburg

date

street & number 2107 North 6th Street

telephone 717/234-3066/717/255

city or town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Ed Weintraub, DSHPO

date 7/11/51

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

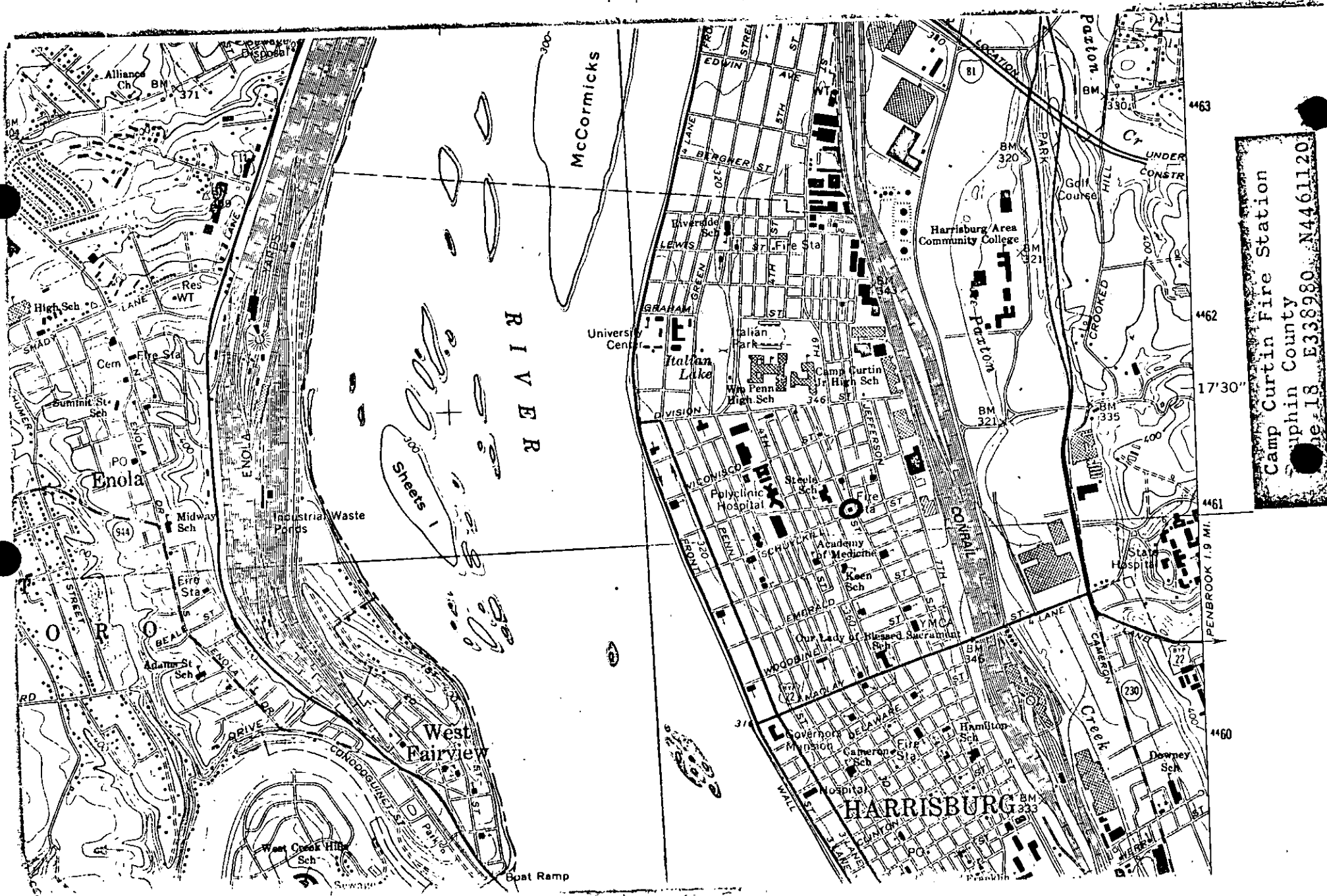
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Camp Curtin Fire Station  
 Dauphin County  
 Sheet No. 18 E338980 N4461120