

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Washington Hose and Steam Fire Engine Company, No. 1  
of Conshohocken

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 15 W. Hector Street

CITY, TOWN Conshohocken

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 13

STATE Pa. VICINITY OF CODE 42

COUNTY Montgomery CODE 091

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

fire house is in daily use

NAME Washington Hose and Steam Fire Engine Company

STREET & NUMBER 15 W. Hector Street

CITY, TOWN Conshohocken

VICINITY OF STATE Pa.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Swede and Airy Streets

CITY, TOWN Norristown

STATE Pa.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory

DATE 1972-74

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Montgomery County Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN Norristown

STATE Pa.

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	
<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS		
<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Washington Fire Company house in Conshohocken, was originally a three bay, two-story structure with gabled roof, built of red brick in 1878. On the first story, two wide arched doors were trimmed in cast iron with a simple motif of bosses. Between them was a narrow arched doorway designed as a personnel entranceway. Fenestration on the second story of the main facade consisted of three Italianate-style windows. White voussoirs and keystones combined to simulate dripstone. The windows were double-hung sash style, with two panes over two. The upper sash contained arched panes with teardrop motifs. Windows on the side elevations were simpler, with brick arches instead of stone, and without curved panes. Resting on the gable end was a square wooden bell tower, constructed of clapboard with Gothic style windows on each side. A fenced balcony surrounded the cupola which contained the bell. The cornice of the building was heavy consisting of several rows of dentils.

Company records indicate that in 1883, a one-story addition was built onto the southeast elevation of the building. This addition served as a stable until 1908, when it became the third main equipment entrance. At that time (1908), a second story was built above the former stable. A third story was also added above the entire structure, now five bays wide, and the gable roof eliminated in favor of a bowed roof line. Fenestration on the third story consisted of two pairs of Italianate windows similar to the originals. A 3½-story bell tower was also added to the firehouse at this time. The belfry is Italianate in style, with its four sides each in the shape of a Palladian window. It is topped by an octagonal cupola with the original weathervane. Photograph #2 shows these alterations clearly.

In 1928 the main doorways were widened to accommodate new equipment. The cast iron trim was removed and the small door between the two main doors was eliminated. The cast iron trim was replaced with white stone voussoirs and keystone motif which repeated the window motif. Swinging doors were replaced with sliding doors. Also in 1928, some of the upper stories were renovated to provide more dormitory space.

In 1962, another addition was made to the right of the bell-tower. It is an unobtrusive one-story brick engine garage.

The interior of the Washington Fire Company has remained in essentially original condition. The upper stories contain the firemen's living quarters. Most notable in the living complex is the old parlor, which still retains most of the original fixtures. Original fixtures still in use include a large chandelier, (now converted into an electric fixture), ornate radiators, hardwood floors, wainscoting, and carved ceiling, and mouldings. Some of the original collection of furniture bought when the building was new in 1877 is still in use. Also in occasional use is the original brass fireman's pole.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

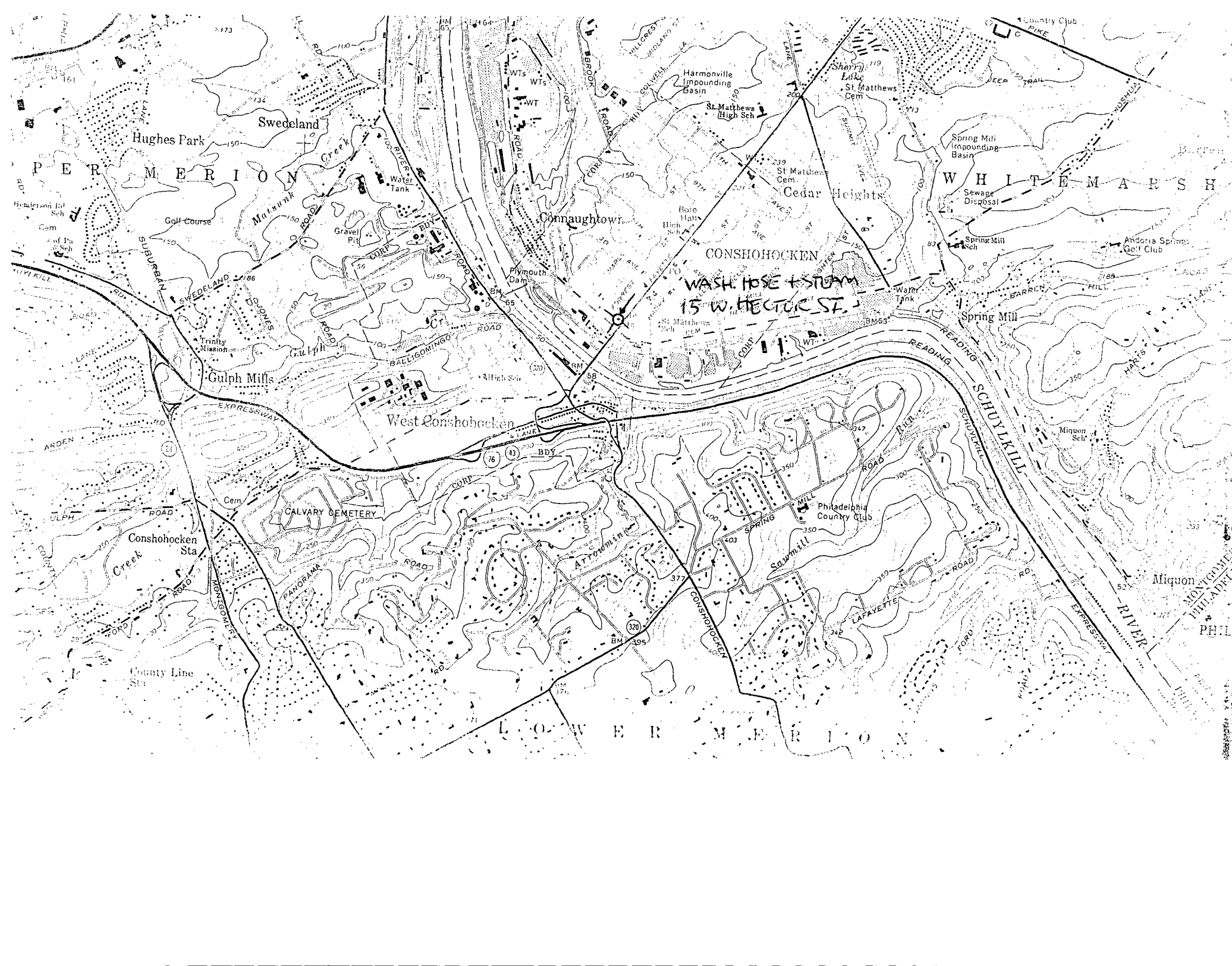
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Washington Fire Company building is a good example of the Italianate style; it gains further importance because much of its interior is unaltered. The building has been in continuous use for nearly 100 years.

The Fire Company is a fine example of Italianate style architecture of the late 19th century. Its architectural detail and design are increasingly unusual in functional public buildings of its genre - additions and alterations have been faithful to the original character of the building. Its well-preserved interior is valuable because it offers insight into the native firemen's occupation during the late 19th and early 20th century, and also because it is a good and complete example of tastes of that period.

The fire company itself is the oldest in the town of Conshohocken, having been established in 1874.





PERMERION

WHITEMARSH

WASH. HOSE + STAM  
15 W. HECTOR ST.

West Conshohocken

LOWER MERION

Miquon  
MONTGOMERY  
PHILADELPHIA  
PHIL.