

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 Laurel-Rex Fire Company House

AND/OR COMMON Laurel Engine House, Rex Hook & Ladder Company House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER South Duke Street (41)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 19th

CITY, TOWN York

VICINITY OF
CODE 12

STATE Pennsylvania

COUNTY York

CODE 133

USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of York

STREET & NUMBER 50 West King Street

CITY, TOWN York

VICINITY OF

STATE Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. York County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 20 East Market Street

CITY, TOWN York

STATE Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Laurel-Rex Firehouse is a 48 by 96 foot, two-story, Italianate style firehouse originally built in 1878 as the Laurel Engine House. The firehouse is constructed of brick and is painted in the traditional brown and cream Victorian scheme. At the southwest corner of the Engine House is a three-story belltower and on the northwest corner there is a second belltower atop the Rex Hook & Ladder Company House. The Ladder house was added to the Engine house in 1888, while in 1887, a stable had also been built onto the Engine house. In all, the present structure represents three building phases: the Laurel Engine House, 1877; the stable, 1887; the Rex Ladder House, 1888.

The combined Rex and Laurel Engine house is now five bays across the main facade, and seven bays deep. On the main facade, the most prominent features are the entranceways. Each is pedimented, and within each pediment is a cast iron emblem bearing the engine house's name. Second story Italianate style windows are topped with brick dripstones. The heavy cornice consists of a frieze decorated in flower motif, modillions on the projecting cornice, and more widely spaced brackets. A wrought iron railing tops the cornice along the side elevation. Strongly contrasting brick quoins accentuate the corners of the building.

The belltower adjoining the Laurel Engine House is three stories high. Window and door frame treatment on the first two stories repeat those of the main building. Third story windows are more Gothic in appearance. The wooden belfry is surmounted by an intricate wrought iron railing. The Rex Engine House bell tower is less ornate, with a pyramidal roof, Italianate windows, and simple railing.

B 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 1878, 1887-1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Laurel Fire Company, organized on February 13, 1790, as a bucket company, is one of the oldest in York County. A charter was granted by 1874 and the present engine house was constructed during 1878.

By 1886, a meeting was held in York for the purpose of forming a hood and ladder company. The Rex Hook and Ladder Company was organized in 1887 and was housed in the building adjoining the Laurel Engine House.

The firehouse is a fine example of the Italianate architectural style as adapted for functional purposes. The three-story bell tower is particularly noteworthy as an example of adaptive use. The later addition nicely complements the original structure. In continuous use for over 100 years, the building is the only one of its kind in the City of York.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Maass, J. The Gingerbread Age: A View of Victorian America. New York; Rinehart, 1957.
- _____. Artwork of York. Chicago: W. H. Parish, 1893.
- Gibson, John. History of York County Pennsylvania. Chicago: F. A. Bettey Publishing Co., 1886.
- Prowell, George R. History of York County Pennsylvania. Chicago: J.H. Beer & Co., 190 Vol. I

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	35,2675	442,4760	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David M. Berman, Sally McMurry

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

March, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Comm.

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

William Penn Memorial Museum, Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

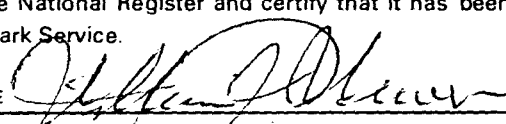
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Executive Director

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

4/9/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

