

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

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

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

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 12 1980  
PH & MC  
Historic Preservation

**1. Name**

historic FRANKLIN HOSE COMPANY #28

and/or common HARMONY ENGINE COMPANY #6

**2. Location**

street & number 730-732 South Broad Street not for publication

city, town Philadelphia vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district \_\_\_\_\_

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Philadelphia code 101

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Colin Trading Corporation

street & number 7373 Ridge Avenue

city, town Philadelphia vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Pennsylvania

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry Unit, Department of Records

street & number City Hall, Broad and Market Streets

city, town Philadelphia state Pennsylvania

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic American Bldgs. Survey - 1963  
Phila. Historical Comm. - 1971 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Library of Congress - Wash., D. C.  
Phila. Historical Comm. - 1313 City Hall Annex, Phila., Pa.  
city, town Wash., D. C. state \_\_\_\_\_  
Phila., Penn.

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>original bldg., c. 1849</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			major alterations, c. 1868

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

Erected c. 1849, the building located at 730-32 South Broad Street underwent considerable alteration, including a new facade, in 1867-68. Following the purchase of the Harmony Charter by Franklin Hose in 1867, the Franklin Company took the older, more prestigious name of the Harmony Engine Company and continued its operation out of the same building. The structure, as it stands today, represents the renewal of the old building undertaken by the new Harmony Company shortly after 1867.

The South Broad Street firehouse contains a thirty-four foot front and extends approximately sixty feet in length back to Rosewood Street. The structure which rises four stories high and is divided into three main bays, is constructed of brick and faced with granite ashlar on the first, second and third stories. A full mansard roof comprises the building's fourth story.

The ground floor of the structure is pierced by four openings divided by neat, granite pilasters. The two larger central openings were designed to accommodate vehicular traffic, while the flanking side entrances catered to pedestrian movement. These two narrower entrances were separated from adjacent buildings by half pilasters<sup>1</sup> and from the larger vehicular openings by a single, full pilaster. A cluster of three pilasters divides the two larger center openings from each other. Each of these seven (half and full) pilasters rests upon a flared base approximately one foot high. Reaching only to the height of the transom bar, all are capped with a finely ornamented capital. Except for the middle pilaster in the center groups of three, the others serve as supports for elliptical arches which spring up and across each of the four openings. An elegantly etched Fleur-de-lys keystone ornaments both the large and small arches. Atop the middle pilaster sits a small, hemihexagonal engaged pilaster. Its foliated capital blossoms up and out to become a visual support for the second floor projecting bay. Within the four ground floor openings, the entrance frames and doors have remained virtually intact. Each of the smaller openings contains a single light transom and heavy wooden doors with raised and molded panels. Only one of the two doors has suffered minor alteration having had its larger central panels removed and replaced with a single light of glass. While one of the two large openings remains unaltered, the other has had its transom area infilled with concrete. Solid, wood, double doors, similar in detail to the flanking single doors, fill the two larger openings. Several of the wood panels, however, have been removed and replaced with glazing.

A wide band course atop a moulded stone cornice separates the lower two stories. Both the band and the cornice flare out within the central bay area to form a part of the semihexagonal bay which projects at the second floor level. The cornice with its delicately etched bed moulding is capped at both ends with a single decorative bracket. Seven elliptically arched window openings pierce the second story. As on the ground floor, etched keystones embellish these openings with a variation of the Fleur-de-lys pattern. Three of the openings are contained within the projecting bay while the remaining four flank the center bay evenly on each side. Although the original window frames and sash frames within the openings remain in place, the lights within have been removed. The

1. The buildings on either side of the firehouse have since been demolished.

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industrial and urban growth. By 1871 - or indeed 1868 - the metropolis required a professional fire department, not a collection of rival, occasionally warring, volunteer companies.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates original bldg., c. 1849; alterations, c. 1868  
 Builder/Architect not available

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

From the very inception of Philadelphia, the prevention of fire has evoked plans, regulations and citizen participation. William Penn and Thomas Holme sought to design a city "which will never be burnt." In 1696, however, urban reality required that the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly enact legislation for the preventing and extinguishing of fires, and twenty-three years later the City acquired its first engine. Benjamin Franklin and twenty-five other citizens took a further initiative in 1736 by forming the Union Fire Company, Philadelphia's first. Founded in 1784, the Harmony Fire Company occupies a place in this tradition of public concern and private response. The Harmony and the many other similar volunteer organizations passed out of existence in 1871 with the creation of the Philadelphia Fire Department. The building at 730-32 South Broad Street stands as one of the few surviving monuments in the City to this history of fire protection and volunteerism.

At the close of the American Revolution, twenty-two volunteer fire companies served Philadelphia. In August of 1784, thirty-two members of the Society of Friends gathered in the Quaker Meetinghouse at Fourth and Arch Streets and founded the Harmony Fire Company. Headquartered in Harmony Court, an alley off Third Street below Chestnut Street, the Harmony began with three ladders, two firehooks, and the bags and buckets of its members. The next year it acquired an engine from the Britannia Fire Company. It later moved to Eighth Street near Arch Street.

As the population and area of the City expanded, the need for fire protection also increased. From 1810 through 1860, the number of fire companies rose dramatically. This growth led to the formation in 1819 of the Fire Association, a mutual assistance organization with very strong political overtones. The Harmony was a charter company. Newer companies, however, were excluded. Among these was the Franklin Hose, established in 1838 with a house on South Street between Broad and Thirteenth Streets. In 1849, it moved to 730-32 South Broad Street, and in 1867 it purchased the charter of the older, more prestigious Harmony. Through the acquisition of the Harmony, the Franklin gained membership in the Fire Association and a more distinguished lineage. Indeed, the newer company even adopted the name of the older organization.

Soon after the merger, the new Harmony Company remodelled the Franklin's old fire house to give it the present appearance. Within four years, however, this undertaking came to naught. In 1871, the City supplanted the system of volunteer companies with a municipal fire department. The Harmony became the Harmony Fire Company Stock Association. The Fire Department did not occupy the Harmony's building; rather the Association rented it out as an income property. By 1895, it was a starch works.

Today, the Franklin/Harmony firehouse stands as a monument to almost a century and a half of public service and volunteerism by Philadelphia's fire companies. The last such building erected before the creation of the municipal fire department, it also testifies to the shortsightedness of the old companies in an era of tremendous

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Zone  
semihexagonal projecting bay, at this level, dominates the building facade. A stone balustrade with thirteen small circular openings crowns the bay and intrudes into a wide stone band which serves to separate the second story from the third.

Verbal  
The third story contains three pairs of round arched window openings. The keystones and voussiers, plainly executed, do not contain the etched stone embellishments found on the lower two floors. Window frames remain intact.

A heavily bracketed wood cornice with an ornamented stone bracket at each end completes the main facade of the building. Above the cornice a full story mansard comprises the fourth level. Three dormers penetrate the asphalt shingled surface. The larger, center dormer, containing triple round arched sash, completely fills the center bay and extends up slightly beyond the top of the structure. Its shallow pitched frame lacks completely its original mouldings. Two standard sized dormer windows flank the center structure. Both are pitched and contain round arched window sash. The glass lights within all three dormers have been removed.

Although the building has suffered some deterioration, it appears to be structurally sound. The upper floor openings have been sealed to protect the building from the weather and vandals.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Minutes of the Harmony Fire Company, 1784-1822.  
 Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia, Charles R. Tyson, Chairman. Publication  
 Commemorating the Centennial of the Philadelphia Fire Department, 1871-1971.  
 Scharf, J. Thomas and Thompson Westcott, History of Philadelphia, 1609-1884. Philadelphia,  
 1884.

(cont'd)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Phila., Pa. - Camden

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	8	4	8	5	7	7	5	4	4	2	1	1	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C 

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D 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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 Leon Lewis Levin, Architect

organization Leon Lewis Levin, Architect

date 15 February 1980

street & number 2244 N. 53rd Street

telephone (215) 473-1789

city or town Philadelphia

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, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/21/80

For HCERS 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

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- Archives - Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Circle Branch  
"Public Ledger"; "Heximore & Locker"; Print Dept. et al
- Bucks Co. Historical Society, Pine & Ashland Sts., Doylestown, Pa.  
"Minutes of Volunteer Firemen's Association"
- Department of Interior, Washington D.C.  
"Historic American Buildings Survey"
- Firemen's Hall, 2nd & Quarry Sts., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106  
National Fire House & Museum of Phila. "Records"
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania - 13th & Locust Sts. Phila. Pa.  
"Harmony Fire Co. #6 - Annual Ball Dec. 26, 1867"
- Library Company of Philadelphia - 1314 Locust St. Phila. Pa. 19107  
"The Firemen's Record of the Phila. Fire Dept." by  
J. Albert Cassedy
- The National History Assoc., Telegraph Bldg. Harrisburg, Penna.  
"Encyclopedia of Phila. Vol III" by Joseph Jackson
- J.T.Scharf & Thompson Wescott "History of Philadelphia" Vol.III  
List of companies & dates of their founding.
- Dennis Smith "History of Firefighting in America"
- John Watson "Annals of Philadelphia"  
Published by Willis P. Hazard Copyright 1877.
- John G. Waite "Old Philadelphia Firehouses", Charette Jan, 1964
- Richard Webster "Philadelphia Preserved" Temple Univ. Press 1976  
Catalog of Historic American Buildings Survey  
Library of Congress Catalog Card #76-18669

Acknowledgements:

Philadelphia Historical Commission  
Dr. Richard Tyler & Patricia Siemiontkowski  
Firemen's Hall: Mr. Tommy Tye  
Mutual Assurance & Phila. Contributorship  
Jack Robrecht: 601 S. 48th St. Phila. 19143  
Richard Webster: West Chester, Pennsylvania

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Smith, R.A., Philadelphia As It Is in 1852: A Correct Guide. Philadelphia, 1852.

Webster, Richard J., Philadelphia Preserved: Catalog of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Philadelphia, 1976.



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PAGE No. 3

Franklin Hose Company  
to  
Harmony Fire Company

Indenture 27 May 1867

Between the "Franklin Hose Company" and "Harmony Fire Company" in consideration of the sum of One Dollar lawful money:  
"All that certain lot or piece of ground with the buildings and improvements thereon erected situate on the west side of Broad Street at the distance of thirty five feet Southward from the North side of Fitzwater Street in the late District of Moyamensing and the County of Philadelphia now in the twenty sixth ward of the City of Philadelphia Containing in front or breadth thirty four feet and in length or depth Westward fifty eight feet six inches to Lloyd Street Bounded Northward and Southward by ground now or late of Josiah Randall and or hiers Eastward by the said Broad Street and Westward by the said Lloyd Street\* "(now known as Rosewood St.\*)

"Being the same premises which Jane Shaw sole executrix and Devise under the last will and testament of Charles Shaw deceased by Indenture bearing the date the thirtieth day of May Anno Domini Eighteen hundred and sixty one and intended forthwith to be recorded granted and conveyed unto the said Franklin Hose Company in fee under and subject to the payment of a certain yearly ground rent or sum of Eighty five dollars when and as the same should thereafter accru grow due and payable unto Josiah Randall Anna Maria Lloyd and Violet Primrose their heirs, and assigns .....etc.

Recorded 28 May AD 1867

See inclosure :

