

**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

1. Name

historic 26th District Police and Patrol Station

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2136-2142 East Dauphin Street _____ not for publication

city, town Philadelphia _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state Pennsylvania _____ code _____ county Philadelphia _____ code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name William F. Burke Sr. and Anna M. Burke

street & number 4825 Roosevelt Boulevard

city, town Philadelphia _____ vicinity of _____ state PA 19124

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Philadelphia City Hall

city, town Philadelphia _____ state PA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None Known _____ has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The 26th District Police and Patrol Station is a three-story redundant station house which anchors the northwest corner of East Dauphin Street and Trenton Avenue in a rowhouse neighborhood close to a former industrial area in Philadelphia's Kensington section. Although the public faces of this building suggest a rectangular form overall, the plan is, in fact, in the shape of an "L" with the long facade oriented to stone-paved Trenton Avenue and a second but nonetheless formal facade facing East Dauphin Street (Plate 1). The open space provided by this L-plan once served as a yard where the District's mounted patrol could shelter their steeds and police wagons could deliver detainees and deviates to the rear of the station house. In the east (Dauphin Street) facade an over-sized vaulted opening, now temporarily blocked-in for security purposes, exhibits what once was the main access to the police yard, a space which is still visible from the north (Plate 2).

Designed in the manner of America's Renaissance Revival, the property utilizes an iron post-and-beam construction but otherwise presents a freely-defined and handsomely ornamented "palazzo" image, articulated both by basement rustication and by an emphasis on principal fenestration at the upper levels.

Tooled brownstone set on a granite plinth identifies the water table of a classic "basement" (first floor) area which is enriched to the height of fifteen feet by the mix of brick and terra cotta billets, set up to resemble banded rustication. On the upper floors, windows, which are larger at the second or "piano nobile" stage, are generally aligned with the shorter third-floor windows and all are enriched by moulded, three-plane reveals. At the street or basement level, the sash is set closer to the wall surface and each window is crowned by a five-part keystone lintel set up in the English Georgian manner. While all windows are presently blocked in, they originally were glazed in 1/1 sash which originally provided the uninterrupted airiness needed aesthetically to counteract the weighty massing of the walls (Plate 3).

Capping the two facades overall is a monumental entablature of copper. Dominated by a wide frieze, this crowning feature relates to a cornice which rises above the eaves line to obscure the building's pitched roof construction. The roof, which obviously is not part of the architectural intent but which allows for a large loft space, is only visible to the public from the west where it relates to a windowless wall of the Trenton Avenue ell (Plate 4), and from the narrow north gable end where it also relates to a windowless wall (Plate 2).

Rather than utilizing classical rules of proportion and symmetry, the property relies on the harmonious relationships of stylized but academically-inspired motifs. These include tripartite elements, stringcourses, tooled ashlar, banded pilasters, and an oculus, etc., all of which together create a balanced asymmetrical composition. Significantly, form follows function in that the design of each facade implies a particular use just as the horizontality set up by a change in materials and fenestration also implies a difference in function of the first floor (where the public was allowed) and the upper floors (where the officers were housed and trained).

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The principal element of the Trenton Avenue facade is a monumental arch, which rises above a classically-inspired entrance frontispiece which itself is expressed as a pavilion flanked by narrow side windows. The great upward thrust of the door together with the arched motif not only provides a visual vertical tie for all three floor levels; it also expresses an exterior definition for the only interior stairwell space. This arch is trimmed in moulded blocks of terra cotta to its springline, a point which conforms in height to the horizontal line of the sill-high, third-floor stringcourse. The brick voussoir, in turn, encases the arched upper half of the uppermost stairwell landing window (Plates 1 and 3).

The Trenton Street facade melds with that of Dauphin Street by means of a curved corner element which lessens the sharp shadows usually imposed by an angled corner. Here, most of the material elements used overall are found summarily as if to visually connect the two facades, and to the third floor is added the ultimate balcony. A curved element, this is set up "pro-stylar" fashion with two Doric columns, faced in terra cotta, set on a slightly projecting platform (Plates 1 and 3). The inverted space is provided access by a door in the west wall and the small area is furnished with a built-in bench.

The Dauphin Street entrance presents an up-scaled version of the Trenton Avenue doorway, proportioned so that the opening coincides with the height of the impost of the arched yard entrance in the northernmost bay (Plates 1 and 3).

The interior spaces survive intact as does the original architectural detail which is limited to such elements as the arched stairway portal and two high-transomed doorways enframed in two-plane architraves. Plywood veneer has been applied to the first floor walls in the last fifteen years, but the original intent is still obvious in the over-scaled openings and the high baseboards (Plate 5). On the first stages of the dog-leg stairway the newels, ballusters, and handrails and spindle-type balusters are missing, but they survive at the upper stage.

At the first floor level the plan emphasizes a range of street-side offices leading from the central passageway which connects the Dauphin Street entrance to the large, west-side morning room. A walk-in freezer, approximately 9' x 9', has recently been installed in this most westerly space (Plate 6), but otherwise the flooring and trim are intact. A long narrow space, flanked on the north by the vaulted space of the patrol wagon entrance and on the south by the corridor, has a cemented floor and tiled walls, all referring to its most recent use as a food preparation area. Otherwise, the dimensions of the narrow space which may have originally functioned as a waiting room remains as originally intended (Plate 7).

The second floor housed the immense open space, probably originally the drill room. This occupies the whole front (east) block of the building including floor space over the vault, and extends also to the most westerly wall (Plate 8). The locker room adjacent and west of the stairwell remains intact (Plate 9). On the third floor area are various dormitory spaces, some of which are approached from a secondary corridor which leads from the stairwell foyer. The tripartite doorway which separates the main spaces from the stairwell remains intact (Plate 10).

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Now vacant, the property is in need of materials conservation and general interior rehabilitation in order that it may become a viable part of a community which, with the demise of the local smokestack industries, has suffered an economic depression.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1896

Builder/Architect John T. Windrim, Architect/
Doyle and Doak, Builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 26th District Police and Patrol Station is architecturally significant because it is a unique document of the little-known creative aspect of the early public work of John T. Windrim (1866-1934). The property is historically significant because it is a rare survivor of several commissions completed by the younger Windrim while his father, James M. Windrim, was the Director of Public Works for the City of Philadelphia. It holds further historic significance because, just as this 1896 station house refers to a newly-formed Police District, it suggests a strong, however peripheral, reference to the growth of the industrial city. It also provides a specific material record of the almost immediate response to the reorganization of Philadelphia's Police and Fire Departments under Mayor Edwin H. Fitler (1887-1891); the 26th District with which this property was once associated was created out of the older 18th District in 1895, and the police and patrol units assigned to the new precinct represented a new mode of civic authority established under Mayor Fitler and continued not only by his immediate successors, Edwin S. Stuart (1891-1895) and Charles Warwick (1895-1897), but also well into the twentieth century. The station thus represents work most probably planned by Fitler, executed under Stuart, but completed under Warwick, and it remained viable until after World War II.

John T. Windrim was only just beginning to establish himself apart from a partnership with his father when the City authorities restructured the police and fire departments in order to gain more control of the services. Between 1893 and 1897, Windrim designed as many as eleven police and fire stations, including the Central Firehouse (1894). Only three examples of this work survive; in addition to the Dauphin Street property these are a Romanesque fire station, built of stone in Chestnut Hill, and a Queen Anne style fire station and patrol house, built of brick at 117 Queen Street. The latter was a rehabilitation of an earlier volunteer fire station, enlarged to incorporate a patrol unit. All of these examples together with a "medievalist" fire station at Point Breeze are the only survivors of the new era in police and fire department administrations, and the Dauphin Street property, based on classical inspiration, is the only brick and terra cotta interpretation of its kind remaining in the City. Furthermore, the area survivorship and the uniqueness of the building point to significant factors as they relate to Windrim's achievements overall.

John T. Windrim ultimately gained local renown as the architect of two public buildings at Logan Circle, monuments which essentially completed Philadelphia's long travail over its "White City" scheme for the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. These epic works, the Franklin Institute and the Family Court Building, addressed specific client demands for a Haussman-like boulevard in imitation of nineteenth century Paris. The buildings represent the range of expressions put to Neo-Classical design principles over more than thirty years; one is a pastiche of the flamboyant Beaux Arts; the other a more restrained "Neo-Walter" design typical of the 1930's.

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Just as he accommodated client goals on the Parkway, Windrim in mid-career was responsible for a series of relatively undistinguished but publicly acceptable corporate images styled in the modernist-classicist manner. This work, which survives throughout the tri-state area, were commissions for the Bell Telephone Company and the Philadelphia Electric Company. Even in his early commercial commissions, Windrim alluded to the acceptable with the easily-recognizable monumentality of temple forms for institutions such as Philadelphia's Bank of North America. For other institutions such as the Academy of Natural Science, he worked with a more Academic Renaissance Revival than he chose for the Dauphin Street station house. It was more in the realm of his private, country house commissions where his work took on the sub-medieval allusion to a new-landed gentry that Windrim made use of an ability to create vital and individually expressive designs. In a prologue context, the 26th District Police Station displays the creativity in design and the sensitivity to place that Windrim's office displayed in its residential designs; such coincidence identifies the property as a major contribution to J. T. Windrim's repertory.

The principal qualities in the design of this building, attending to form following function and executing design relationship in a free but harmonious assemblage, are details more philosophically akin to the progressive Aesthetic Movement of the time than they are to the Renaissance Revival. Yet Windrim had clearly established the palazzo effect in his relative use of materials and proportions. The cue to the progressive stance is that the architect has not enslaved himself to exactness or to symmetry; nor has he inserted a lofty image of pinnacles and parapets into the social climate of a blue-collar community. Although his design assumes a commanding corner presence, its humanist approach creates what is essentially a neighborhood-identity device rather than a symbol of government authority. While he provided the community with a notable secular landmark, Windrim did so by working with a scale compatible to the neighborhood and its brick aesthetic; thus he used architecture as a civilizing force. In so doing, he seems to have tried to provide a public image that could relate to the value systems of both the politicians and the working class. The station house, thus, offers a rare perspective into Windrim's early interest in political genius while it also offers a disciplined design appropriate for use of the local authority. Rather than imitating another generation's accomplishments, the architect freely utilized forms and materials to enhance the environment just as he made use of new building techniques to accommodate the new functions being applied to police work.

As a combination police and patrol station, the property provides a rare nineteenth century example of a specific building type. It is Philadelphia's only record remaining of a concept which came about as a result of new administrative measures. The concept of a mounted police was initiated in 1858 when Mayor Richard Vaux added one unit to the City's police force in order to combat civil disturbances and capture criminals who used horses to escape. By 1881, the mounted patrol, while still a relatively small proportion of the force, was augmented by a patrol wagon service which transported prisoners, aided sick and injured citizens, and provided a general protection service. In the 1890's, both services were enlarged; by 1903, the patrol wagon service included thirty-two wagons, and the mounted patrol was identified by several District-oriented units.

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Mounted officers generally patrolled outlying areas of the City, such as the former villages like Kensington, which had quickly been transformed into industrial cores. By the mid-1890's, police and patrol stations, or fire and patrol stations, or combinations of the three, had been established as a matter of course through the City.

The new building types were set up to house the particular units assigned to them, and most provided quarters as well for magistrates to hold district court. Accommodations included morning rooms (dispatch rooms), duty rooms, drill rooms, and dormitories. Stables and cell blocks were usually set up in adjacent yards.

As a record of this history, the 26th District Police and Patrol Station, which replaced an earlier police station, does a remarkable job of suggesting the economic and cultural implications essential to the urban condition of the 1890's. It perhaps suggests patronage on the part of a father in official capacity in favor of his son, but more importantly it speaks of authority, of discipline, and of social service. In establishing a social role for the building, as well as its basic functions, Windrim makes use of new structural techniques and affordable decorative materials as he puts innovative design to the public test.

In recent years the police station has been vacant. Under private ownership since 1969, it recently served as a food preparation and storage center for convenience foods. Burke's foods, including the first onion rings and deviled crabs, and other products sold under Mrs. Paul's label, were produced here by the W. F. Burke Company from 1975 to 1980. The recent history is testimony to the adaptability of the large interior spaces to special requirements.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Philadelphia

Quadrangle scale 1=24,000

UMT References

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1	8	4	8	8	9	3	0	4	4	2	5	4	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification This property relates to plot plan 18N17, City lot 249, and is approximatley 15,000 square feet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alice Kent Schooler, Principal Architectural Historian

organization John Milner Associates, Inc. date March 4, 1984

street & number 309 N. Matlack Street telephone (215) 436-9000

city or town West Chester state PA 19380

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 Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

title _____ date 5/22/84

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

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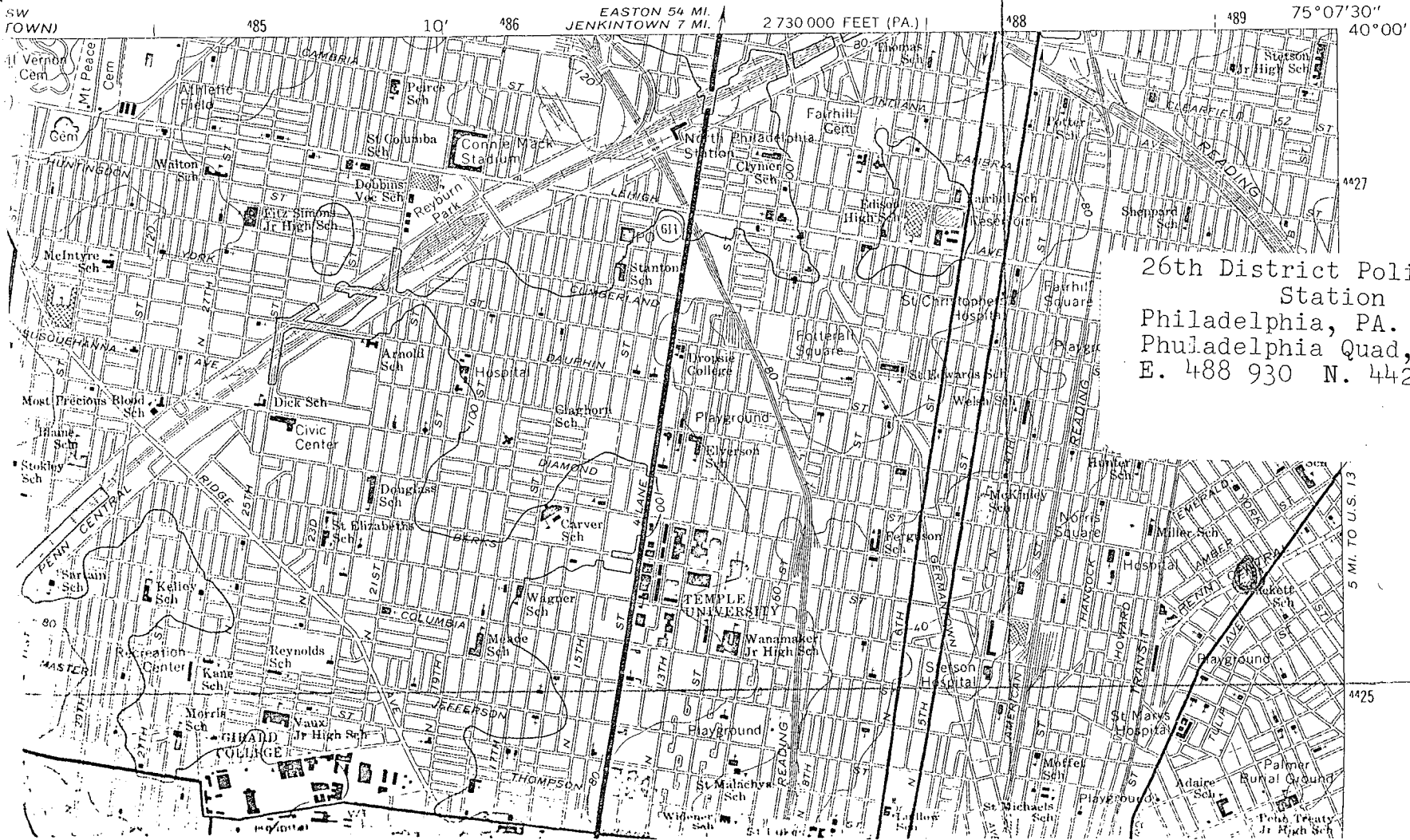
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PHILADELPHIA QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA-NEW JERSEY
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5968 11 SE
(FRANKFORD)



26th District Police and Patrol
Station
Philadelphia, PA.
Philadelphia Quad, Zone 18
E. 488 930 N. 4425 420

5 MI. TO U.S. 13