

Landmarks Preservation Board

Nomination Form

NAME (present) CHERRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

(historic) Old FIRE STATION # 23

ADDRESS 18TH AND E. COLUMBIA

NOMINATION AS:

- Building
- Site
- Structure
- District
- Object

NOMINATED UNDER CRITERIA (ORDINANCE 102229)

(1) has significant character, interest or value, as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, State or Nation; or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or

(2) is the site of an historic event with a significant effect upon society; or

(3) exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historic heritage of the community; or

(4) portrays the environment in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or

(5) embodies those distinguishing characteristics of an architectural-type or engineering specimen; or

(6) is the work of a designer whose individual work has significantly influenced the development of Seattle; or

(7) contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or

(8) by being part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area, should be developed or preserved according to a plan based on a historic, cultural or architectural motif; or

(9) owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or city; or

(10) has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

NOMINEE Jim Stevenson

address 1922 E. CALHOUN ST.

phone EA 9-4381

NOMINATION DATE 12/18/74

DEC 18 1974

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Reviewed [Signature]
Historic Preservation Officer

BOARD SPONSOR Margaret A. Corley

date 12/18/74

date Dec 18, 1974

Landmarks Preservation Board

Seattle Historic Building Data Sheet

1. Name (common or present and/or historic) Old Fire Station No. 23

2. Street and Number 18th Ave. & East Columbia Block _____ Lot _____ Year Built 1909
Cherry Hill

3. Present Owner City of Seattle Present Use Neighborhood Center

4. Interim Owner(s) _____ Interim Use(s) _____

5. Original Owner City of Seattle Original Use Firehouse

6. Architect Everett & Baker Builder _____

7. Assessed Value: Building _____ Land _____ Assessors File No. _____

8. Classification:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Open to Public: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Hours _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	
<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	
<input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Threatened by demolition	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	

9. Neighborhood Information:

A. Compatibility With Neighborhood

Structure Yes X No _____

Use Yes X No _____

B. Importance to Neighborhood

Great X _____

Moderate _____

Minor _____

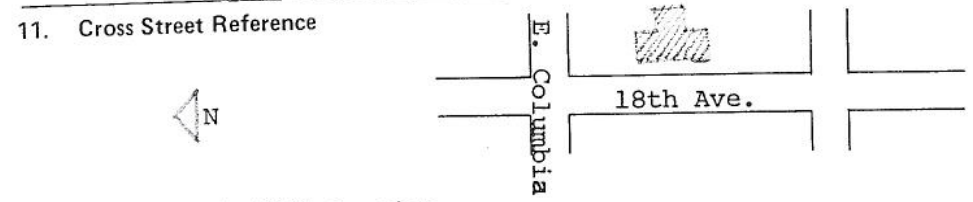
C. Architecturally Strong Neighborhood

Comments _____

10. Special Research Sources (Be Specific, list name or item and where found)

National Register Nomination Form

"Seattle Firehouses" by Jim Stevenson, 1972



12. Photos Attached & Photographer _____

Drawing by Jim Stevenson

13. Physical Description

A. Style of Architecture

B. Construction Material

Red brick, Flemish bond double stretcher
Green tile roof

C. No. of Stories

2 stories plus hose tower

D. Condition

Excellent X
Good _____
Fair _____
Poor _____

E. Exterior Deseccration of Original Design

None or little X
Moderate amount _____
Considerable _____

F. Architectural worth at Example of Its Style

Exceptional _____
Excellent _____
Good _____
Fair _____
Poor _____

G. Notable Features: (Be specific, i.e., detailing, craftsmanship, proportions, materials, colors, interior, etc. Refer to Guidelines of Landmarks Preservation Board).

Fire Station No. 23, originally was designed as a simple "T" shaped plan with the top of the "T" parallel to the street. The back wing housed the hayloft and stables. The hose tower is located at the northeast corner of the plan. When the fenestation was converted to a neighborhood center the exterior was added to with matching brick and brick coursing. The exterior of the 2-storey is faced in red brick of Flemish bond coursing. The front elevation shows three large equipment bays centered in the plan with entrance doors flanking each side of the equipment bay doors. A small equipment bay is located in the north corner. In the recent remodeling of the firehouse as a neighborhood center, the equipment bay openings were sealed with a wood window wall designed to mimic the appearance of the original doors, although the new window wall does not open. The smaller bay to the north was sealed earlier with brick to the sill line of the second floor windows. It is now finished in wood to match the larger window walls, with the brick sill remaining. Two windows of the south corner of the front elevation were also sealed with matching brick and coursing. All the windows of the building have wood sash with brick arched window heads. The sill line of both the first and second floor are emphasized by a soldier coursing (bricks laid on end) that is carried around the entire building. The second floor has two sizes of windows; large multi-paned double hung windows matching the windows of the first floor, and much smaller single-paned double hung windows between the larger ones. Rectangular reveal patterns of two sizes are also laid in brick between windows of the second floor.

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Page Two (a)

Insert

A few coursings of brick are corbeled (each row of brick laid progressively further out) below the eaves of the roof above. The hip roof is still surfaced in its original green tile which was restored in the recent remodeling. The hose tower is still intact including iron work around the bell loft openings although the openings themselves have been bricked in. The hose tower also had a similar tile roof which was removed at an earlier date.

Little of the original interior remains. The adaptive re-use of the firehouse necessitated extensive remodeling of the interior as a dance studio and neighborhood center. Some of the original woodwork still remains, however, in the stairs and second floor offices.

14. Significance

A. Major Significance

- Historical
- Architectural **Firehouse**
- Engineering
- Cultural
- Geographical
- Archaeological

B. Level of Significance

- National
- State
- Community

C. Statement of Significance (Be specific, history, personages, events, etc.)

Numbers apply to Landmarks Ordinance criteria Section 6. Numbers not listed do not significantly apply to subject property.

ction 6 (1) Designed by the architectural firm of Everett and Baker in 1908 and built the following year, 1909, Old Fire Station No. 23 was built originally for horse-drawn equipment. The barn with hayloft and stables were located in the wing off the rear of the building. The firehouse opened as the original 3rd Battalion Headquarters. It housed a horse-drawn steamer (Engine No. 23), a horse-drawn hose wagon, No. 23, and ladder wagon, No. 3. The ladder wagon was replaced in 1918 with a new "American LaFrance" motor truck, and Engine No. 23 was replaced in 1922. The ladder truck and battlion serviced an area that extended from the ship canal to the Rainier Valley. Because of the extent of the southern area a special signal was installed at the corner of South Orcas and Rainier Avenue South which told the truck by the time it had traveled that far, whether to continue, or if the fire had been put out and to return to the station.

ction 6 (5) Old Fire Station No. 23 owes no allegiance to any particular style. Although some details reflct stylistic origins, the overall building's design is clearly an honest architectural response to a specific function need, a firehouse, for which there is not stylistic precedent. Firehouses never really were associated with any one style over others. It is significant that these buildings, because of this lack of allegiance, were among the first of civic structures to respond to new directions in modern architecture. They were able to avoid the eclectic associations nurtured by other government structures, banks, and universities for years afterwards.

section 6 (9) The recent conversion of Old Fire Station No. 23 into the Cherry Hill Neighborhood Center represents a highly successful example of adaptive re-use of historic structures. The combination of the already established visual association of the neighborhood and the Old Fire Station, and the community programs and activities which now take place inside create a strong sense of continuity and place. This combination strengthens the associations of each, so that ~~that~~^{the} station is now, not only a significant visual feature of the neighborhood, but significantly contributes to the cultural life of the community, each complimenting the other.

Surveyor Signature John Lockman

Date 18 March 1975

Reviewed: _____
Historic Preservation Officer Date