

1517-19 PARRISH ST

Name of Resource: Engine 13 Firehouse

Proposed Action: Designation

Property Owner: Marion Ryder

Nominator: Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia

Staff Contact: Allyson Mehley, allyson.mehley@phila.gov

OVERVIEW: This nomination proposes to designate the property at 1517-19 Parrish Street and list it on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The nomination states that the property, known as “Engine 13 Firehouse,” satisfies Criteria for Designation C, D, and E. The firehouse was constructed in 1901 as part of a major campaign by the Philadelphia Fire Department to modernize and rebuild the city’s fire stations after the turn of the twentieth century. The nomination argues that the property satisfies Criteria C and D as it exemplifies the Beaux Arts architectural influences seen throughout American cities in this era. It further contends that the property satisfies Criterion E, as it was designed by architect Philip H. Johnson, one of the most prominent and prolific designers of public buildings in Philadelphia during this period. The proposed period of significance is from the time of construction in 1901 through 1951 when Engine 13 relocated from 1517-19 Parrish Street to a new firehouse.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the nomination demonstrates that 1517-19 Parrish Street satisfies Criteria for Designation C, D, and E.



NOMINATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING, STRUCTURE, SITE, OR OBJECT
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SUBMIT ALL ATTACHED MATERIALS ON PAPER AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM (CD, EMAIL, FLASH DRIVE)
ELECTRONIC FILES MUST BE WORD OR WORD COMPATIBLE

1. ADDRESS OF HISTORIC RESOURCE *(must comply with an Office of Property Assessment address)*

Street address: 1517-19 Parrish Street

Postal code: _____

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: Engine 13 Firehouse

Current/Common Name: _____

3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Building Structure Site Object

4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Condition: excellent good fair poor ruins
Occupancy: occupied vacant under construction unknown

Current use: _____

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please attach a narrative description and site/plot plan of the resource's boundaries.

6. DESCRIPTION

Please attach a narrative description and photographs of the resource's physical appearance, site, setting, and surroundings.

7. SIGNIFICANCE

Please attach a narrative Statement of Significance citing the Criteria for Designation the resource satisfies.

Period of Significance (from year to year): from 1901 to 1951

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1901-02

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Philip H. Johnson

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: _____

Original owner: City of Philadelphia

Other significant persons: _____

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

The historic resource satisfies the following criteria for designation (check all that apply):

- (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or,
- (b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- (c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or,
- (d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; or,
- (e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- (f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or,
- (g) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or,
- (h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or,
- (i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history; or
- (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please attach a bibliography.

9. NOMINATOR

Organization Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia Date January 29, 2024

Name with Title Kevin McMahon, consultant Email hstark@preservationalliance.com

Street Address 1608 Walnut Street, Suite 1702 Telephone 215-546-1146

City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19103

Nominator is is not the property owner.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: January 31, 2024

Correct-Complete Incorrect-Incomplete Date: 6/12/2024

Date of Notice Issuance: June 13, 2024

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: Marion Ryder

Address: 2715 Brown St

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19130

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: _____

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: _____

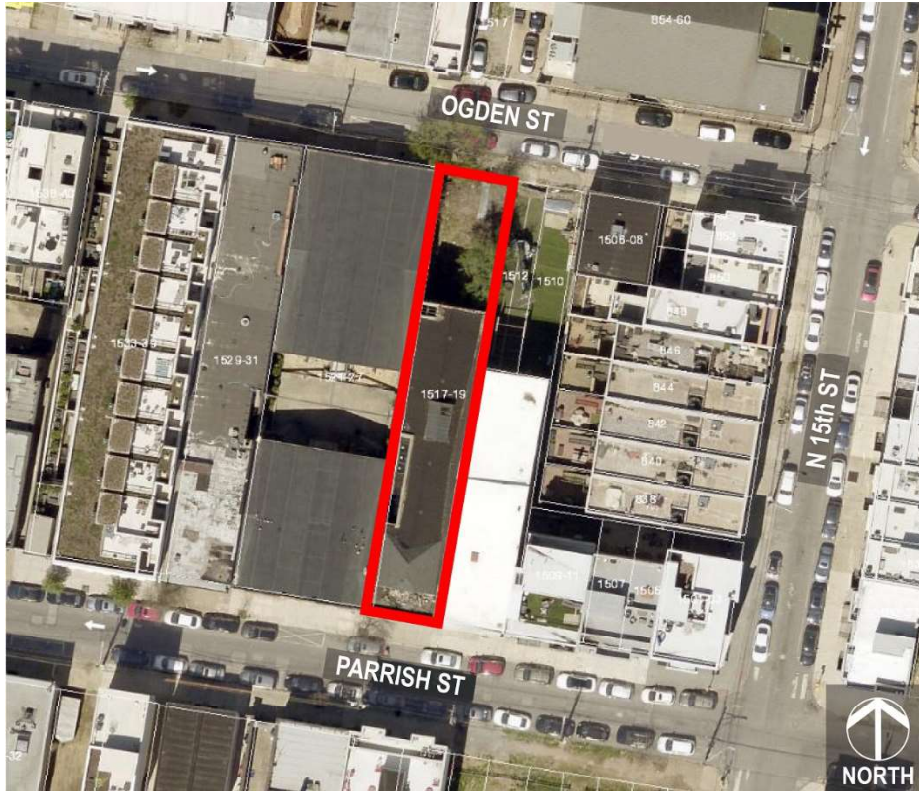
Date of Final Action: _____

Designated Rejected

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5. Boundary Description

All that certain lot or piece of ground with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate on the North side of Parrish Street at the distance of 114 feet Westward from the West side of 15th Street in the 15th Ward of the City of Philadelphia. Containing in front or breadth on the said Parrish Street 28 feet and extending of that width in length or depth Northward between lines parallel with said 15th Street 177 feet 6 inches to Ogden Street.



Property Boundary Map (Imagery from atlas.phila.gov)

OPA Account# 884342519

6. Physical Description

The Engine 13 Firehouse is a 2 ½-story, Beaux Arts-style building on the north side of Parrish Street about halfway between North 15th and North 16th Streets in North Philadelphia. The south or primary elevation, which fronts on Parrish Street and is three bays wide, is constructed of Flemish bond brickwork with alternating reddish-brown stretchers and black headers. The first story, where the brickwork has a rusticated treatment, is dominated by a pair of original painted wood garage doors within a larger, central arched opening. On either side of the garage doors, there are ornately carved limestone door surrounds with engaged, composite order columns and broken pediments topped by small circular windows. The hollow metal doors within the surrounds appear to be twentieth-century replacements. Between the first and second stories, there is a terra cotta frieze or belt course. The second story contains four one-over-one, double-hung aluminum replacement windows with Mannerist-style surrounds in terra cotta. The top of the south elevation features a prominent and ornately decorated terra cotta cornice, small portions of which are missing. An original dormer window, which was the front part of the attic level, is also missing. The north elevation, which is set back from Ogden Street (the building occupies about ⅔ of the site) is not visible due to the presence of several large trees.



Figure 1: South elevation of the Engine 13 Firehouse, facing Parrish Street.

7. Statement of Significance

The Engine 13 Firehouse was built in 1901 as part of a major campaign by the Philadelphia Fire Department to modernize and rebuild many of the city's fire stations after the turn of the twentieth century. Designed by architect Philip H. Johnson, one of the most prominent and prolific designers of public buildings in Philadelphia during this period, the Engine 13 Firehouse is an excellent example of the Beaux Arts style that characterized many of the firehouses, police stations, libraries, hospitals, and recreation centers built by the city beginning around 1900. For these reasons, the Engine 13 Firehouse merits listing in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places by satisfying the following criteria as established in the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Ordinance §14-1004 (1):

Criterion C

Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style;

Criterion D

Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; and

Criterion E

Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation.

The Architectural History of the Philadelphia Firehouse

The Philadelphia Fire Department was first organized in January 1855, becoming one of several expanded city services following the Act of Consolidation that united the City of Philadelphia with outlying districts to create the County of Philadelphia the previous year. Initially, the department was made up of the numerous volunteer fire companies that had existed across the city since the early eighteenth century. Although the volunteer companies now fell under a centralized command structure, for many years there was little indication - either in terms of firehouse buildings, firefighting equipment, or firefighters' uniforms - that a professional firefighting force had been established. That began to change on March 15, 1871 when the department became a fully paid one and the volunteer companies were replaced with twenty-two engine companies and five truck or ladder companies, all under the leadership of a chief engineer and five assistant engineers.¹

Following the creation of the paid fire department in 1871, Philadelphia's first city-built firehouses were commissioned. While many of the volunteer companies' buildings continued to be used, the department built numerous new firehouses across the city. Between 1874 and 1876 at least eight new stations were built, all in the Italianate style according to plans by architect John K. Yarnall. The new stations included those at 808-810 Morris Street in South Philadelphia (Engine Co. 10), at 4752 Richmond Street in Bridesburg (Engine Co. 33), on 826 New Market Street in Northern Liberties (Engine Co. 21), at 1118 E. Montgomery Avenue in Fishtown (Engine Co. 6), at 1012 Buttonwood Street in Callowhill (Engine Co. 26), 2202 Cecil B. Moore Avenue in North Philadelphia (Engine Co. 27), at 4545 Main Street in Manayunk (Engine Co. 12), and at 319 Delancey Street in Society Hill (Truck Co. 4).² For the first time, the city's firehouses had a consistent architectural treatment. They were immediately identifiable by their size - standing tall

¹ Fireman's Hall Museum, "History of Firefighting in Philadelphia,"

<https://www.firemanshallmuseum.org/history-firefighting-philly/>, accessed January 27, 2024.

² City Ordinances published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* name Yarnall as the designer of these firehouses.

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among the rowhouse blocks on which they were often located - and common features like large garage doors on the first stories and high, arched double-hung windows on the second stories. The South Philadelphia and Fishtown stations are the only two of the original eight firehouses that remain standing today (Figures 2 and 3). Both have been adapted for residential use.



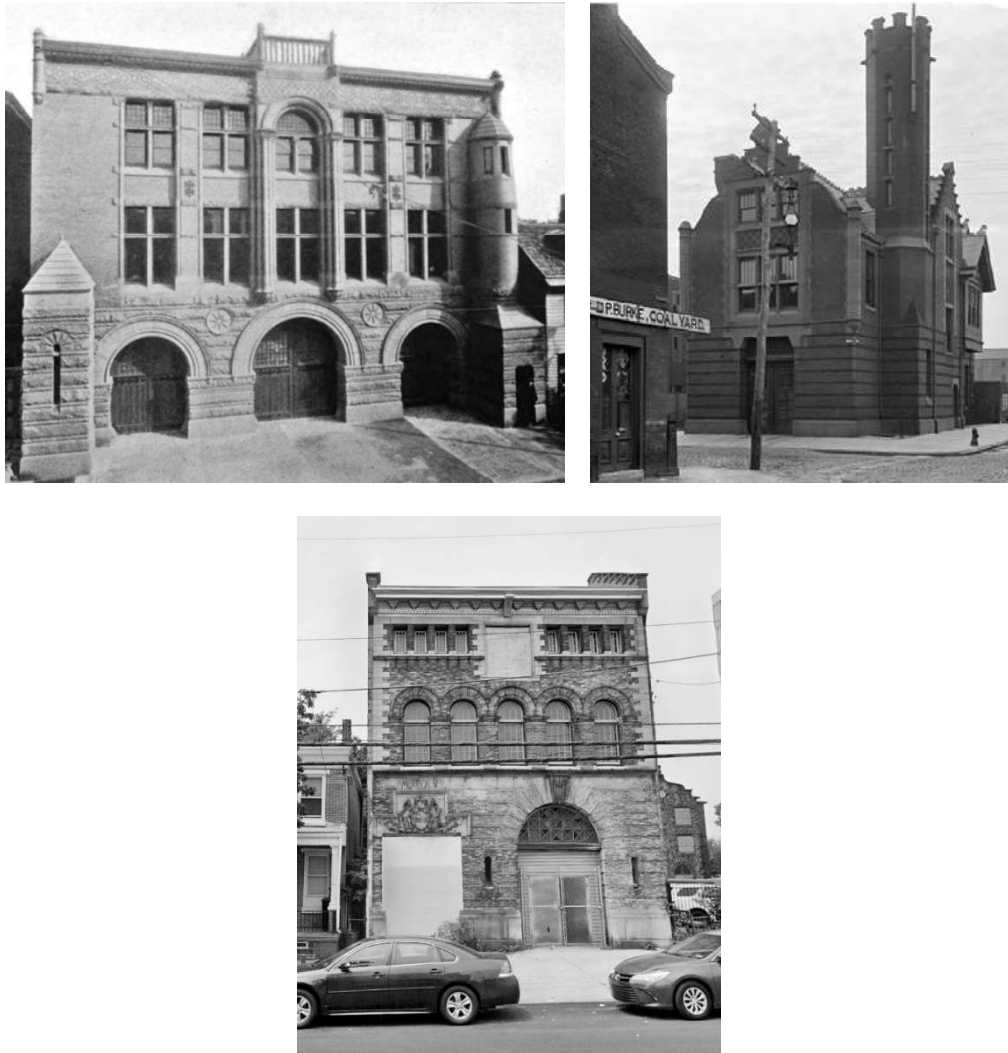
Figures 2 and 3: Engine 10 Firehouse at 808-810 Morris Street and Engine 6 Firehouse at 1118 E. Montgomery Avenue, both designed by John K. Yarnall and built during the early to mid-1870s

During the late-nineteenth century, Philadelphia's rapid growth led to the development of new residential areas in as yet unsettled portions of the city, all of which needed new firehouses. To meet the growing demand, the Fire Department launched its next major building campaign around 1891, commissioning architect John T. Windrim to design a series of twelve new firehouses in locations around the city. Unlike the relatively consistent Italianate treatment of the firehouses designed by Yarnall two decades before, Windrim made each of the new firehouses an individually distinctive work of architecture. Working primarily in the Romanesque Revival and Flemish Revival styles, Windrim's firehouses featured eye-catching compositions with richly detailed masonry, expressing the architectural exuberance of the late Victorian era. Windrim's eclectic approach to firehouse design demonstrated that there was no prevailing or proper style for a firehouse during the late-nineteenth century. Rather, the firehouses merely needed to look official, be recognizable, and have large doors for fire engines to enter and exit. The programmatic flexibility of the firehouse meant that architects were able to create, in the words of architectural historian Rebecca Zurier, "opulent fire stations [that] constituted political as well as architectural statements."³ Some of the best extant examples of Windrim's firehouse commissions are the Engine 29 Firehouse (1894) at 1221-25 North 4th Street in Kensington, the Engine 46 Firehouse (1894) at 1401 South Water Street in South Philadelphia, and the Engine 16 Firehouse (1895) at 1026-28 Belmont Avenue in West Philadelphia (Figures 4-6). All three are listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.⁴

³ Rebecca Zurier, *The American Firehouse: An Architectural and Social History* (New York: Abbeville Press, 1981), 132, 136.

⁴ Randall Baron, "Engine House #29," Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, 1989; Ben Leech, "Engine 46 Fire House," Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, 2017;

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Figures 4-6: Clockwise from top left, Engine 29 Firehouse (1894) at 1221-25 N 4th Street, Engine 46 Firehouse (1894) at 1401 S. Water Street, and Engine 16 Firehouse (1895) at 1026-28 Belmont Ave, all designed by John T. Windrim.

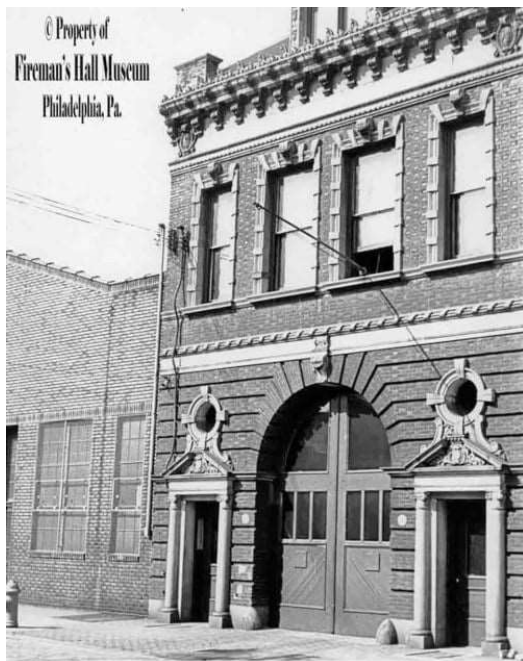
Reflecting national architectural trends, the Fire Department's next major campaign of firehouse construction, which began around 1901, went in a classical direction. The buildings at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, which expressed Roman and Renaissance architectural ideas - such as symmetry, balance, employment of the classical orders, and the uniform application of light-colored, artificial stone (to simulate more expensive limestone or marble) - strongly influenced the development of architecture nationally after the turn of the century. This type of architecture, which became known as the Beaux Arts style, soon came to dominate firehouses and other municipal and civic buildings in virtually every American city starting around 1900.

Andrew Cushing and Oscar Beisert, "Fire House of Engine Company No. 16", Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, 2016.

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Writing about the design of firehouses in the *The Brickbuilder* in May 1910, critic Halsey Wainwright Parker explained how the picturesque character of late Victorian-era firehouses – those designed by Windrim in Philadelphia best illustrate this tendency – had been left behind. Now, Halsey wrote, “The architecture of a [firehouse] especially if it is in a city of considerable population, tends toward formality...and naturally becomes somewhat monumental in its character. Economy of space, ease of circulation, simplicity of arrangement, are all essential and produce symmetry of plan, uniformity of treatment, and directness of expression – all of which are factors in monumental design.” Monumentality rather than “aggressively unique design” was the goal in firehouse design, according to Parker. Like other municipal and civic buildings, firehouses “need to have sufficiently dignified character to be distinctive and to prevent their being overpowered by their adjacent neighbors,” as Parker elaborated.⁵

In Philadelphia, the many firehouses built between about 1901 and 1910 epitomize the Beaux Arts monumentality that came to define firehouse design in cities across the country in this period. Nearly all designed by architect Philip H. Johnson, who is discussed in greater detail below, the Philadelphia Fire Department built (or rebuilt) at least a dozen firehouses after the turn of the century, bringing the formal, monumental quality of Beaux Arts architecture to even the most modest of rowhouse neighborhoods and industrial districts. The new firehouses designed by Johnson were symmetrical and balanced. Most often built of red brick, which frequently had a rusticated treatment, Johnson’s firehouses featured contrasting and richly ornamented door and window surrounds, belt courses, cornices, and other features in light colored stone and terra cotta. Appearing in practically every region of the built-up city, Johnson’s firehouses helped to create a new monumental form of municipal and civic architecture that effectively expressed Philadelphia’s major commitment to public institutions and city services during the early twentieth century.

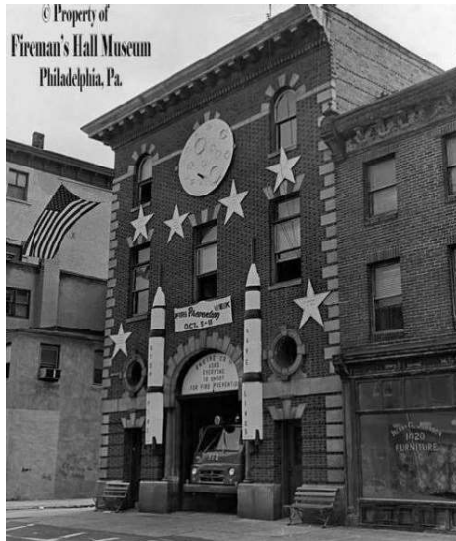


Figures 7 and 8: Engine 13 Firehouse pictured not long after the building was completed in 1902 (Fireman’s Hall Museum) and in 2000 in a photograph by Vincent Feldman.

⁵ Halsey Wainwright Parker, “Fire Department Buildings,” *The Brickbuilder*, Vol. XIX, No. 5 (May 1910), 117.

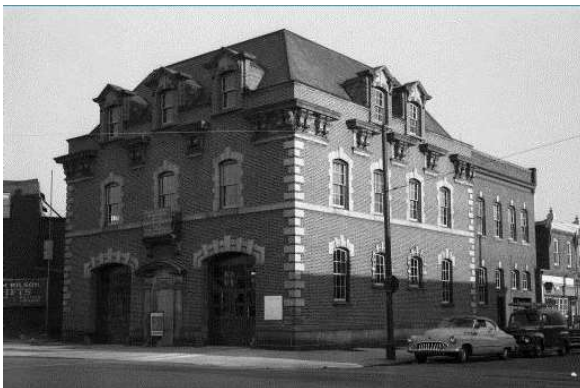
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The Engine 13 Firehouse, which was one of the first (if not the first) new facilities built by the Fire Department after the turn of the century, exemplifies the formal Beaux Arts architectural treatment applied to so many city buildings during this period (Figures 9 and 10). Despite its relatively small size, the building packs an architectural punch, standing out from its more prosaic commercial neighbors by virtue of its distinctive Renaissance-inspired form, which is symmetrical and richly ornamented with rusticated brickwork and elaborate Classical features, such as the window and door surrounds and prominent cornice. The formality of this treatment ensures that the building is immediately recognizable as a work of public architecture, and the large, central garage doors make it clear that this is a firehouse.



Figures 9 and 10: Engine 11 Firehouse at 1016 South Street (Fireman's Hall Museum) and the Ladder 1 Firehouse at 2130-32 Fairmount Avenue (Google Street View), both designed by Philip H. Johnson.

Similar characteristics are found in numerous other firehouses designed by Johnson illustrated above and below, including those housing Engine 11 at 1016 South Street (1902; extant); Ladder 1 at 2130-32 Fairmount Avenue (1904; extant); Ladder 13 at 50th and Baltimore (1904; extant); Engine 9 at 6900 Germantown Avenue (1902; demolished), and Ladder 11 at 12th and Reed Streets (1904; demolished). The Engine 11 and Ladder 1 firehouses are listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.



Figures 11 and 12: The Ladder 13 Firehouse at 50th and Baltimore Avenue (1904; extant) and the Engine 9 Firehouse at 6900 Germantown Avenue (1902; demolished), designed by Philip H. Johnson. Both images are from the Philadelphia DOR.

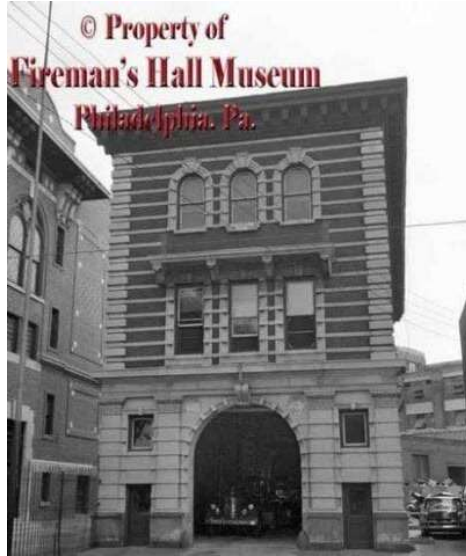


Figure 13: The Ladder 11 Firehouse at 12th and Reed Streets (1904; demolished), designed by Philip H. Johnson (Fireman's Hall Museum).

During the 1920s and 1930s, new fire houses continued to be built in Philadelphia, especially in newly built-up parts of the city where there was no existing infrastructure. These buildings, which were designed by a number of different architects, but especially John Molitor, who served as City Architect starting in 1923, were somewhat more diverse in their architectural treatment than Johnson's earlier group of firehouses. Molitor's earliest firehouses were similar to Johnson's, but became increasingly simplified in terms of ornamentation by the end of the decade. Following the 1920s, the Fire Department's next major building campaign did not come until the 1950s and 1960s, when over a dozen earlier firehouses were demolished and replaced with new buildings designed in the modern style, many of which remain in operation today.

Philip H. Johnson, Architect

The Engine 13 Firehouse was designed by architect Philip Holstein Johnson. Born in Philadelphia in 1869 and educated at Friends' Central and in the city public schools, Johnson later studied engineering and architecture at the Central Manual Training School.⁶ The available information on the early years of Johnson's career is sparse. In his first known job in the early 1890s, Johnson worked as a rodman in the City of Philadelphia's Department of Surveys, but he soon moved on to work as a superintendent of construction for the well-known builder Allen B. Rorke (1846-1899). The *Philadelphia Inquirer* would later report that Johnson in this capacity was involved in the construction of the Bourse building on 5th Street (1893-95), the failed first attempt to rebuild the state capitol building in Harrisburg (1898-99), and the construction of the Commercial Museum in West Philadelphia (1899).⁷

The first known mention of Johnson working independently as an architect is found in the *Philadelphia Times* in October 1899. That month, the *Times* reported that Johnson was working on final drawings and specifications for a "modern apartment house," although neither the location nor the client's name were provided.⁸ This is probably the apartment house at 13th and Pine

⁶ *Encyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. 11*, Winfield Scott Downs, ed. (New York: The American Historical Company, Inc., 1940), 267-269.

⁷ "Architect for the Exposition," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 20, 1901.

⁸ "Real Estate News," *Philadelphia Times*, October 17, 1899.

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Streets that *Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* noted in one of its weekly editions a few months later. In February 1900, the *Builders' Guide* reported that Johnson was the designer of a new ten-story apartment house planned for the northwest corner of 13th and Pine Streets, a project that was never built.⁹ Johnson's client on this job, Thomas W. Durham, was his own father-in-law; his wife was Durham's daughter Margaret, whom he married in 1889. It was through his connection to the Durham family that Johnson began to establish his reputation as an architect rather than builder. His wife's brother, Israel W. Durham (1855-1909), was a prominent member of Philadelphia's Republican party, serving as a state senator between 1897 and 1900 and then as the powerful political boss of the city's seventh ward. Durham was the quintessential Republican machine figure, using his considerable influence within the party to ensure his brother-in-law Johnson was well supplied with commissions from the city and other well-known Republicans. In 1900, in another of his early commissions, Johnson designed the Atlantic City home of one of Philadelphia's most powerful Republican leaders, George A. Vare, cementing his position as one of the most politically connected architects in the city.¹⁰

In what may be the first in a decades-long spree of commissions awarded by the City of Philadelphia, Johnson was hired to design the new Engine 13 Firehouse on the 1500 block of Parrish Street in 1901. Thanks to his brother-in-law Durham, dozens of other city jobs flowed to Johnson over the next few years, including several more firehouses as well as police stations, recreation centers, hospitals, and prisons. In March 1903, the highly corrupt relationship between the City and Johnson's practice was practically codified into law when, through the influence of Durham, the City granted Johnson a contract giving him a monopoly on architectural work for the Department of Health as well as fees amounting to 5% of the cost of all new buildings. Johnson's first big project with the Department of Health was the Philadelphia General Hospital in Philadelphia where he designed a vast, 21-acre complex (now demolished) of large five-story buildings in the Georgian Revival style over the course of about twenty years ([Figure 14](#)).



Figure 14: View of the Philadelphia General Hospital around 1910 (Temple University Libraries).

Johnson, who became known as the “perpetual architect,” became extremely wealthy as a result of this agreement, which reportedly earned him over \$2 million over the next thirty years. This egregious case of municipal malfeasance did not escape notice. In 1914, Johnson and his

⁹ “Architect Notes,” *The Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, February 14, 1900, p. 97.

¹⁰ “Building and Real Estate Notes,” *The Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, May 16, 1900, p. 309.

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contract were the subject of a damning exposé published in the *Public Ledger*, but to no avail.¹¹ Although later several mayors attempted to break the contract, city courts ruled in Johnson's favor. The contract ended only with Johnson's death in November 1933.¹²

Despite the unscrupulous nature of his career, Johnson became a skilled and prolific designer of public buildings. His work, which most often reflected the Beaux Arts and Classical Revival styles that dominated architecture in the early twentieth century, made a significant impact on the built environment of Philadelphia. Johnson's extensive portfolio touched virtually every part of the developed city and includes everything from modestly scaled branch libraries to immense office towers and convention halls. Some of Johnson's best-known work includes the Philadelphia Armory at 32nd Street and Lancaster Avenue, built in 1916 (Figure 15), the fifteen-story City Hall Annex at Juniper and Filbert Streets, built in 1925 (Figure 16), the Civic Center Auditorium at 34th Street and Civic Center Boulevard, built in 1929 (Figure 17). Although the latter was demolished in recent decades, the Philadelphia Armory and the City Hall Annex remain standing and have been the subject of major historic rehabilitation projects.



Figures 15 and 16: The Philadelphia Armory at 32nd Street and Lancaster Avenue (Philadelphia DOR), and the City Hall Annex at Juniper and Filbert Streets (Athenaeum of Philadelphia), designed and built by Philip H. Johnson in 1916 and 1925, respectively.

¹¹ "The Hands of Esau," *Evening Public Ledger*, October 30, 1914.

¹² "Philip H. Johnson, Architect, Dies," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 30, 1933.

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Figure 17: The Civic Center Auditorium on 34th Street, designed by Philip H Johnson and built in 1929 (Athenaeum of Philadelphia).

Johnson was also responsible for the design of numerous Carnegie-funded branches of the Free Library, such as the Kingsessing Branch in West Philadelphia, built in 1919 (Figure 18) and over a dozen recreation centers, including the Starr Garden Recreation Center at 7th and Lombard Streets, built in 1910 (Figure 19). Many of these smaller but no less architecturally distinguished buildings remain standing and in use today.



Figure 18: Kingsessing Branch of the Philadelphia Free Library, extant, designed by Philip H. Johnson in 1919 (Free Library of Philadelphia).



Figure 19: Starr Garden Recreation Center at 7th and Lombard Streets, demolished, designed by Philip H. Johnson in 1910 (Board of Recreation Annual Report, 1914).

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A Brief History of Engine Company 13

The origins of Engine Company 13 lay in the Mechanic Engine Company, which was founded in 1839 as one of the numerous volunteer fire companies that existed across the city prior to the creation of the paid force in 1871. Based in a four-story building at 1411 Brown Street, the Mechanic Engine Company became one of the chief fire fighting forces in lower North Philadelphia.¹³ In 1871, Mechanic became Engine Company 13, one of the original twenty-two paid engine companies, but remained in the Brown Street firehouse, which the city rented for \$800 per year for several decades. Typical of the new paid companies, Engine Company 13 was equipped with one steam fire engine, one horse cart, 1500 feet of gum hose, three horses, and twelve men.¹⁴



Figure 20: Engine Company 13 firefighters standing in front of the firehouse at 1517-19 Parrish Street, during a military training exercise (*Public Ledger*, May 19, 1917).

By 1900, it had become clear that the Engine Company 13 firehouse on Brown Street was no longer up to the task, with the *Philadelphia Times* reporting that this “dilapidated shanty” was “in condition of probable collapse.”¹⁵ Rather than sign a new ten-year lease with the building’s owner, the Fire Department ultimately decided to relocate Engine Company 13 into a new building not far away on the 1500 block of Parrish Street, one of the first in a series of major construction projects that the department undertook to modernize its facilities between about 1900 and 1905. Following approval by the city council, the city acquired the property at 1517-19 Parrish Street in July 1901.¹⁶ Construction began not long after and the new building was completed and opened in 1902.

Engine Company 13 remained at 1517-19 Parrish Street until 1950, when the Fire Department built a new firehouse several properties to the west at 1541 Parrish Street (the northeast corner of 16th and Parrish) where Engine Company 13 is still based to this day.

¹³ The address of this building was later changed to 1431 Brown Street.

¹⁴ “Paid Fire Department,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 15, 1873.

¹⁵ “Brown Street Building Occupied by Engine Company 13 is in Condition of Probable Collapse,” *Philadelphia Times*, November 16, 1900.

¹⁶ Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book J.V.: 272, Page 430, July 19, 1901, recorded July 23, 1901.

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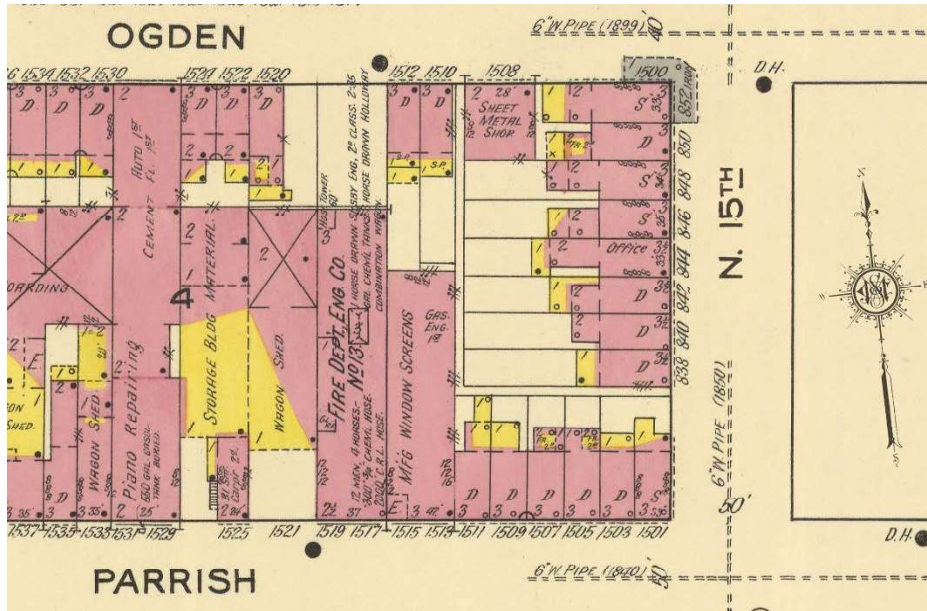


Figure 21: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Vol. 4, No. 364, 1917) showing the Engine 13 Firehouse (Pennsylvania State University Libraries).

8. Major Bibliographical References

Encyclopedia of American Biography, Vol. 11. Winfield Scott Downs, ed. New York: The American Historical Company, Inc., 1940.

Fireman's Hall Museum, "History of Firefighting in Philadelphia,"
<https://www.firemanshallmuseum.org/history-firefighting-philly/>, accessed January 27, 2024.

Parker, Halsey Wainwright. "Fire Department Buildings." *The Brickbuilder*, Vol. XIX, No. 5 (May 1910): 117.

Zurier, Rebecca. *The American Firehouse: An Architectural and Social History*. New York: Abbeville Press, 1981.

Periodicals (see footnotes):

Philadelphia Inquirer

Philadelphia Public Ledger

Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide

Philadelphia Times

Nominator's Statement: This nomination was prepared by Kevin McMahon for the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. It is solely the work of Mr. McMahon and was not supported by his employer, Powers & Company, Inc.