

Final

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fire House No. 7
other names/site number _____ 141-597-29274

2. Location

street & number 803 N. Notre Dame Ave. N/A not for publication
city or town South Bend N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county St. Joseph code 141 zip code 46617

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] _____ 10/20/08 _____
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

East Bank Multiple Property Listing

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Fire Station

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE VICTORIAN: Shingle

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

WOOD: Shingle

roof ASPHALT

other METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Fire House No. 7
Name of Property

St. Joseph IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1904-1947

Significant Dates

1904

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Brehmer, Charles A.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Fire House No. 7
Name of Property

St. Joseph IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property < 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	563390	4614980	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille B. Fife, President
organization The Westerly Group, Inc. date 06/30/97
street & number 556 W. 1175 N. Rd. telephone (812) 696-2415
city or town Farmersburg state IN zip code 47850

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of South Bend, Board of Public Works
street & number County City Building telephone
city or town South Bend state IN zip code 46601

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Firehouse No. 7
St. Joseph County, Indiana

7. Description

Fire House No. 7, is a two and a half story brick building designed by the local architect, Charles A. Brehmer. The plan of the structure is, in general, a rectangle, with a slight protruding bay on the south side. The building demonstrates the features typical of the late Queen Anne style, including the slight irregularity of the plan. The foundation of the building is in a dark red brick, laid in a stretcher or running bond, with a dressed stone water table. The building's walls are of brick on the first floor and shingled on the second with a skirting at approximately the second floor level.

The imposing front facade, which faces N. Notre Dame Avenue, is two stories with an attic. The ground floor is assymetrial, with the personnel or main door on the south side and the double leaf fire door and two sets of narrow windows with wrought iron grilles on the north side. The second story presents a two story architrave (posts, lintel and arch) which is shingled. Holding within its width, is a second story bow window with two double light arched windows, flat roof with a dentilled cornice, bearing the raised inscription: "Hose Company 7". Flanking the architrave are two components which make up the width of the building, also shingled. They display a boxed cornice carried by simple brackets. The small triangular pent roof above this element is shingled. A thin metal awning roof carried by several delicate wrought iron scroll brackets completes the facade.

The building has been adaptively used as offices for several social service offices of the City of South Bend. The interior spaces, for the most part have been sensitively remodeled to serve their new function. Carpeting has been added over the wood floors and office screens separate some of the work areas. One enters from the ground floor, through the old personnel door, which led to the second floor, into a hall. The equipment door is fixed and behind it, an office/reception area has been built, with access from the ground floor hall. A second door off the hall leads to a larger space, used for meetings and conferences, which has much of the original wall finishes, car siding and other details. Throughout the firehouse, all original wood trim, including window and door surrounds, baseboard moldings and other features have been maintained. Additions, on the ground floor, include wrought iron decorative bars installed on the outside of windows for security protection. Storage and other areas lie behind, (west) of the conference room. Upstairs, the front part of the building contains several offices, separated by partitions. An office off of this main room, on the

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Firehouse No. 7
St. Joseph County, Indiana

north side contains a separate door with a transom. Interior trim on the second floor is simple; windows and doors have plain moldings, with a slight projecting cornice. The front oriel window is deeply recessed, with a pleasant, wide sill.

Additional offices are reached from the left of the stair landing off of a hall which runs nearly the length of the building. Offices are left and right, on both sides of the hall. Rear exit is provided through the second floor door, out to the exterior stair.

The lot on which Fire House No. 7 is situated, is of an irregular shape, thanks to the junction of South Bend Avenue, which bisects North Notre Dame at an oblique angle. The southern half of the lot, separated from the building by a driveway, contains a small park, with an expanse of well-kept grass, several trees, including statuesque evergreens and street trees along N. Notre Dame. Also within the confines of this area is a local folk art artifact, a cobble stone water fountain, circular in design, with a central cone shaped plinth which is decorated with simple, lancet arched recesses. According to local history, this feature was built around 1915 by residents of the neighborhood and the staff of the fire house. Although no longer operating as a fountain, it remains an interesting element of the green space south of the fire house. To the north of the building is a parking lot, enclosed with a modern chain link fence.

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Firehouse No. 7
St. Joseph County, Indiana

8. Statement of Significance

Fire House No. 7 is significant in the context of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century development of the East Bank (See Section E., East Bank Multiple Property Listing). The building qualifies under Criteria A and C, the former as an example of the public works of local government during the period of significance. It is also significant as a representative of local institutional architecture.

Prior to 1886, when the South Bend Fire Department was reorganized, with a paid professional staff, volunteer companies throughout the city were charged with protecting citizens and property from the ravages of fire, a prevalent calamity. Volunteer fire company (called hose company) No. 7 had been organized in the later years, before the advent of the professional department. As the industry, commerce and residential development of the city grew, the need for better fire protection was addressed. When the reorganization was accomplished, the department consisted of eight facilities: A central station with chemical, truck and hose companies, and seven stations, each of which had a hose company. Fire House No. 7, which housed Hose Company No. 7, was the last of these.¹

It is probably an indication of the importance placed on the northern sector of the East Bank area, that, by 1907, three years after the construction of the fire house at South Bend and N. Notre Dame Avenues, it would have the highest valuation (\$11,585.49, for building and contents), of any of the stations except the Central Fire Station. Five men staffed the operation: A Captain, Lieutenant, Driver and two Pipemen.² Undoubtedly it is evidence of the importance of the fine homes located in this part of the East Bank, that such a fine station was constructed. Among those, was the home of the architect of the building, Charles Brehmer, once located just across the street.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, when the East Bank was rapidly developing, South Bend prided itself on a modern, well-equipped fire department. Fire House No. 7, was an important part of this community service.

¹ Timothy E. Howard. *History of St. Joseph County, Vol I.*
Chicago/New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1907, pp. 377- 381.

² Ibid.

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Firehouse No. 7
St. Joseph County, Indiana

Architect Brehmer was the designer of the two remaining early twentieth century fire houses which have survived in the East Bank. He was known, throughout his career for designing such structures, as well as residences. Fire House No. 7 is an admirable example of his work. The use of shingles on the second story, with the exuberant and varied planes demonstrated by the construction, creates a light, complex feeling to the upper level. The use of stone detailing, by contrast, keeps the building rooted to its ground floor stone and brick underpinnings. The treatment of the fenestration on the upper floors is particularly delightful. The projecting oriel window with its identifying signage, forms a central focus to the composition. Neatly based upon the sloping metal awning, its panelled bulkhead, fluted, rounded corners and dentilled cornice add considerable interest to the two round-arched windows at the center. The two side windows at this floor elevation are demurely recessed, providing a frame, but no competition to their more flamboyant sisters. Above, unfortunately partially blocked at the moment, is a neat tripartite palladian window, and overtopping this element, recessed within an enframed shingle arch, is a neat, ovate attic window. All of these design elements are skillfully combined to create an interesting, yet playful, institutional building in the late Queen Anne mode -- perfectly appropriate for its graceful residential setting.

In 1968, Fire House No. 7 was deemed too antiquated for modern fire fighting needs. Presently, it serves as a neighborhood center, serving social service needs, under the auspices of public agencies, providing a nutrition center, housing services and other similar activities. The building has been designated by the South Bend Common Council as a Local Historic Landmark.

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Firehouse No. 7
St. Joseph County, Indiana

9. Bibliography

Howard, Timothy Edward. *A History of St. Joseph County, Indiana, Vols. I & II.* Chicago/New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1907.

Other Sources

Sanborn Insurance Maps for the City of South Bend: On microfilm in the collection of the South Bend Public Library.

Survey Form, South Bend Historic Sites and Structures Survey, 5/1977 & 8/1987.

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The property consists of Lot 1 of C. L. Hobson's subdivision of Lots 24 and 25 of Sorin's 1st addition to the Town of Lowell, now incorporated into South Bend.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the property has been consistent since the construction of the building in 1904.

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Firehouse No. 7
St. Joseph County, Indiana

Contemporary and historic photographs:

The following information is the same for all photographs, unless otherwise noted.

1. Fire House No. 7
803 N. Notre Dame Avenue
 2. St. Joseph County, Indiana
 3. Camille Fife, The Westerly Group, Inc.
 4. May-June, 1997
 5. 556 W. 1175 N. Rd., Farmersburg, IN 47850
-
6. View looking west from the across N. Notre Dame, showing the east facade of the building, including the canopy, projecting oriel window and gable front windows.
 7. Photo No. 5
6. View looking north/northwest, showing the main entry door, the former equipment door and some details of the south side elevation.
 7. Photo No. 6
-
4. June, 1998
 6. View looking south, southeast toward the north side elevation of the building, showing the side gable, tower, and some of the fenestration. The chain link fence in the foreground protects a parking facility for staff working at the building.
 7. Photo No. 6a
4. June, 1998
 6. Image of the south elevation of the building, taken looking north from the park area just south of the building. Visible are the side gable, rear extension and stair, as well as the cobble stone fountain built on the site.
 7. Photo No. 6b
4. June, 1998
 6. Photograph looking east from the rear of the property, showing the west elevation, including the rear stair, windows and door, and roof lines.
 7. Photo No. 6c

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4. June, 1998
6. Interior photograph looking southwest through ground floor hall window toward park, showing the window frame and iron bars placed there.
7. Photo No. 6d

4. June, 1998
6. Interior photograph looking up the stair located at the left side of the side entry, the car siding at the left and the stair newel are evidence of the simple original finishing of the building.
7. Photo No. 6e

4. June, 1998
6. Interior view, taken on the second floor, looking toward the windows in the projecting front bay. The shadow outline of the arched window openings are visible.
7. Photo no. 6f

