

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

11/13/98

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. 3
other names/site number 141-597-36323

2. Location

street & number 219 N. Hill St. N/A not for publication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]
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/21/98
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

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain:)

Fire House No. 3

St. Joseph IN

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
0	0	objects
1	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)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE

roof ASPHALT

other METAL: iron

Narrative Description

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

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _____

Period of Significance

1892-1947 _____

Significant Dates

1892 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Brehmer, Charles A. _____

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Fire House No. 3
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	<u>16</u> Zone	<u>562980</u> Easting	<u>4614140</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Dale Brink c/o Arnold Joers
street & number 1825 Ridgewood telephone
city or town South Bend state IN zip code 46617

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. 3
St. Joseph County, Indiana

7. Description

Fire House No. 3, 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. The foundation of the building is brick, laid in a stretcher or running bond, with a dressed stone water table at the top. On the front elevation, there is a four course facing of stone, above the water table, with three courses of rock-faced stone and a dressed stone course above. This latter course also forms the sills of the two windows on this facade. The brick is tan, except for the facing brick on the front facade which is a warm red tone. The work which joins the front brick to the side has been accomplished in such a manner as to imply the effect of coins on the side elevations. The roof is a medium high gable front, with cross gables toward the back of the building. At the rear, the hose-drying tower is intact, a simple square element.

The front facade, which faces N. Hill Street, is two stories with an attic. The ground floor is assymetrial, with the personnel or main door on the north side and the large equipment door opening on the south, with narrow, double hung windows between the two doorways and at the extreme left or south of the facade. The equipment door has been replaced by a modern metal door with two full display lights flanking. Above, is a three light transom. The opening remains the same. The main entry door is panelled with a transom above and the first floor facade has been painted white.

A thin, pressed metal awning, slightly curved, with a diamond pattern on its surface, separates the first from the second floor. It is supported by wrought iron brackets, the two outer ones being fashioned in an ornate, scroll design. Both fire houses in the East Bank share this feature.

The treatment of the second story of this fire house is similar to that of Fire House No. 7, except that here the designer has rendered the concept in a more chaste, institutional fashion - more appropriate to its location near the commercial and industrial center of the East Bank. A central, pedimented gabled bay predominates the composition. The gable end has been enclosed by aluminum siding, as have the eaves. This is supported by two corbelled brick pilasters, each with a narrow vertical recess and a modified ionic capital. The "bases" of these pilasters are large blocks of dressed stone which rest upon a belt course of dressed stone that also serves as the sill for two, narrow double hung window in the bays flanking this central element. The heads of these windows are formed by double rows of radiating voussoirs and a central, flat dressed stone keystone. The heads of the three windows on the second floor in the central bay are unified by a band of dressed stone, above which is a carved stone panel containing the legend, "3. HOSE CO. 3." Above this, at the attic level, is a central, round arched window flanked by two square windows whose heads

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Firehouse No. 3
St. Joseph County, Indiana

are also composed of a double row of radiating voussoirs and a central stone keystone. The sills of all three windows are unified by a band of dressed stone which is slightly narrower than the one on the floor below.

Other windows throughout the building are one/over/one light, double hung, with dressed stone sills and the same treatment at their heads as those on the front facade (including those on the first or ground floor.) The windows on the first floor are slightly longer than those on the second, a feature typical of this era.

The interior of Firehouse No. 3, although adaptively used as a beauty shop, retains much of the simple, utile interior finishes which once characterized the needs of a fire house. The ground floor public space is reached through a door emplaced within the former equipment door opening. Although a multi-paned door and transom replaces the former equipment doors, the opening has remained intact. Today, a large open room is used for the retail activity. At the west end, a modern interior wall has been erected to hold the extra plumbing and sinks. Behind this the balance of the former equipment area is used for storage. A second door on the front facade, the personnel door, leads to the upstairs, which is presently used as a private residence and which contains multiple spaces as, living, dining, kitchen and bedroom areas. Two doors access the stair hall, both lead into the main retail area, front (east) door is presently used as access between the stair hall and the retail area. The door at the rear probably leads under the stair to an outside door.

All of the woodwork in the building is intact, and is painted. It is comprised of simple molded surrounds, with a projecting molding over the door entries. Additional moldings, including a cove molding in the projection of the stair hall into the main retail area, and a picture molding, decorate the space. The ceiling of the main ground floor area is interesting in that it is original car siding. At the front, the hatch is still visible which once contained the pole used by the firemen for quick access from the upstairs rooms to the equipment area.

Hose Company No. 3 was associated with this site for a long time before the present building was constructed. A one-story brick structure, and an attached building of equal size occupied the site for many years, as well as a barn and sheds. The present site contains a large asphalt parking lot to the south of the building, which stretches to the building (west of the former alley) to the south west. The front of the Fire House, between the sidewalk and the building, has been decorated with a brick inlaid area and a decorative period street lamp.

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Firehouse No. 3
St. Joseph County, Indiana

8. Statement of Significance

Fire House No. 3 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 is significant under Criteria A and C as an example of the public works of local government during the period of significance and 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 and terrifying calamity. Volunteer fire company (called hose company) No. 3 was organized in 1868, in the present East Bank area, before the advent of the professional department. It replaced a previous group, "old number three" which was abandoned.

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. This reorganization, and the new division of equipment was made possible by the completion of South Bend's new stand pipe and water works system in the mid 1870s. Now, with fully pressurized hydrants located around the town replacing the old system of underground cisterns, different conditions prevailed. With the installation of the Gamewell Fire Alarm system in 1882, the stage was set for the professional reorganization which occurred in 1886. ¹

In 1907, the value of Fire House No. 3 was placed at \$10,839 for the building, lot and contents, a figure just slightly under that for Fire House No. 7. At this time, the lot containing No. 3 also held a supply barn and sheds, located at the western end of the property. These contained wagons, feed and various supplies. These buildings and supplies were valued at over \$5,000 in 1907. Hose Company No. 3 boasted a long and respected history. Mr. William Smith, from this company, who entered the volunteer service first in 1877, was later promoted to Assistant Chief of the professional department in the 1890s. ²

At the beginning of the twentieth century, when the East Bank was rapidly developing, South Bend prided itself on a modern, well-equipped fire

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

² *Ibid.*, pp. 380-381.

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Firehouse No. 3
St. Joseph County, Indiana

department. Fire House No. 3, was an important part of this community service.

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. 3 is a good example of his work. The design of the building is enhanced by the quality of the brick and stone materials used throughout. The architect reveals subtle neo-classical influences in his use of stone keystones and capitals and in the symmetry of the main facade. The building was designed to provide service to the community for a long time and has, to date, fulfilled that promise.

Like its counterpart in the northern part of the East Bank, Fire House No. 3 was deemed too antiquated for modern fire fighting needs in the 1960s. It was sold to a private owner at that time and rehabilitated for commercial space, its present use.

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Section number 9,10 Page 5 **Firehouse No. 3**
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, 1979 & 8/1988.

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The property consists of Lot 87 of the Original Plat of Lowell.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the property has been consistent since the construction of the building and its predecessors.

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Firehouse No. 3
St. Joseph County, Indiana

Contemporary and historic photographs:

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

1. Fire House No. 3
219 Hill Street
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 north, from the west side of N. Hill Street showing a portion of the south facade and the east facade from an oblique angle.
7. Photo No. 15

6. View looking west toward the east elevation of the structure, from the east side of North Hill Street.
7. Photo No. 16

4. June, 1998
6. Photograph looking southwest toward the north and front facades of the building. The side gables and rear extension are visible, as is the front canopy and entry facade.
7. Photo No. 16a

4. June, 1998
6. View of the south facade, looking north west from across Hill Street. The steep slope of the site is evident.
7. Photo No. 16b

4. June, 1998
6. Looking northeast, toward the hose drying tower, there is a below ground automobile entry, with low concrete walls located just in front of the tower at the back of the building's extension. It appears to be inactive.
7. Photo No. 16c

4. June, 1998
6. Interior Photograph, looking due east, toward the present front entry, the old equipment doorway. The car siding in the ceiling and the hatch are visible and one can see the window moldings on the two flanking front windows.
7. Photo No. 16d

4. June, 1998

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Firehouse No. 3
St. Joseph County, Indiana

6. Interior Photograph, looking north from within main room of the shop, showing the rear door under the stair, as well as details of the moldings typical of those used in the building.
7. Photo No. 16e

