

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Engine House No. 47 Inventory Number: B-1348

Address: 2608 Washington Blvd. City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21230

County: Baltimore City USGS Topographic Map: Eastern MD/DC - Baltimore West

Owner: Mayor & City Council of Baltimore City

Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: 25 Tax Account ID Number: Tax Exempt

Project: ATC - FCC - Section 106 Agency: FCC

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Is the property located within a historic district? no yes Name of district: _____

Is district listed? no yes Determined eligible? no yes District Inventory Number: _____

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

Description.

This two-story Classical Revival-style brick building was erected between 1922-1923 to serve as an engine house for the Baltimore Fire Department. It continues to serve this function. The building is located on the northeast corner of Washington Boulevard and Wilmington Avenue in the Morrell Park neighborhood of Baltimore.

The building is constructed of red brick laid in Flemish bond on an ashlar foundation. It has a flat, parapet-type roofline with a stone cornice running along the façade and side elevations consisting of a deep projecting crown molding supported by a dentil course. A square brick hose tower with a hipped roof and covered chimney rises above the roofline at the rear of the structure.

The façade on Washington Boulevard is articulated by a two-story projecting stone central entrance bay. The main entrance is a double wide arched opening, with a panel above that reads "Balto Fire Dept." The inscription is set between two carved floral medallions along with the number of the engine house "No. 47." The fire engines and equipment enter and exit from this main entrance. At the second story, a band of three windows are set above a projecting stone sill visually supported by brackets. Each window opening has 1/1 sash.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: <u>Meets Criterion A for association with expansion of public services (fire protection) in Baltimore city, and Criterion C for its architectural merit.</u>	
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>10/28/02</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR program	<u>11/18/02</u> Date

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Continuation Sheet No. 1

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On the side and rear elevations, all of the door and window openings have stretcher lintels and stone sills. The window openings have 1/1 double hung sashes. On each of the side elevations there is a single-leaf door located near the rear corners of the building.

History.

Designed by architect Clinton P. Greer and built by R.B. Mason, Engine House No. 47 in Morrell Park was put into service on September 6, 1923 as the new home of Baltimore City Fire Engine Company No. 47 which had relocated from Mount Winans.¹ This Classical Revival-style engine house has continued to serve the community since it opened nearly eighty years ago. Construction of Engine House No. 47 was part of an early 1920s expansion program for the Department, with funding for the building and site coming from a Public Service Commission improvement loan.²

Firehouses in Baltimore have been constructed since the 1840s. Initially, they were clustered within the most heavily developed areas around the harbor and sited in close proximity to each other to make transporting equipment – a job originally done by hand – easier. As horses were used to pull apparatus and the city expanded in area, firehouses were constructed farther apart, with engine companies established in major neighborhoods and truck companies located elsewhere.³

After the great fire of February 7, 1904, new emphasis was put on adequate and up-to-date fire protection in the Baltimore. Between that date and the 1940s, the Fire Department doubled the number of engine and truck companies, added equipment, and modernized apparatus and facilities throughout the city.⁴

Engine House No. 47 was one of nine firehouses constructed in the early to mid 1920s that were based on a new design introduced in 1920 in response to the changing requirements of firehouses.⁵ (Engine House No. 2 on Light Street was the first firehouse in the city to use the new design.) As motorized engines replaced horse-drawn apparatus, firehouses no longer needed to serve the previously related function of barns.⁶ The resulting new type of firehouse, exemplified by Engine House No. 47, lacked the horse stalls with which all firehouses had been equipped to that time. In addition, it featured a downstairs kitchen to serve the firemen who, under the single platoon system of the time, went home only at stated periods.⁷ Whereas most firehouses before this time had been individually designed, this new model was preferred to those previously built and became a standard for future firehouses in the city.⁸

Beginning in the 1950s, the Department began to upgrade their facilities by replacing old firehouses with modern, well-equipped fire stations. In the 1970s, it introduced “superstations” that housed four or more companies and replaced several individual firehouses.⁹ In light of these waves of modernization and construction, Engine House No. 47 is an important survivor of Baltimore’s neighborhood firehouses of the 1920s.

Eligibility.

Engine House No. 47 does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between this Engine House and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad

¹ *Baltimore Sun*, April 27, 1922 & January 18, 1923. William A. Murray, *The Unheralded Heroes of Baltimore's Big Blazes* (Baltimore: E. John Schmitz & Sons, Inc., 1969), 94. See also plaque on southeast elevation of building.

² *Baltimore Sun*, April 27, 1922.

³ Gerry Grimm, *The Baltimore Firehouse: An Introductory Essay* (unpublished), 4.

⁴ Abel Wolman, Gustav J. Requardt, and Nathan L. Smith, *Report to the Commission on City Plan of the City of Baltimore on Present and Proposed Physical Facilities* (Baltimore, 1942), 91.

⁵ Grimm, 6. Murray, 86.

⁶ Rebecca Zurier, *The American Firehouse: An Architectural and Social History* (New York: Abbeville Press, 1982), 159-160.

⁷ Wolman, 92.

⁸ Grimm, 6. Murray, 86.

⁹ Grimm, 4.

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Continuation Sheet No. 2

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patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Criterion D, information potential, was not evaluated for this study, but preliminary research did not produce any evidence that Engine House No. 47 is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory.

Engine House No. 47 is eligible under National Register Criterion C for its physical design and construction, embodying the distinctive characteristics of its type and period. The two-story Classical Revival-style brick building with its parapet-type roofline, projecting stone cornice, stone central entrance bay, and hose tower reveal characteristics of firehouse construction in the 1920s in the city of Baltimore. In addition, its interior plan reflects changes in firehouse design that were introduced in the early years of the 1920s and influenced later firehouses in the city. Based on the requirements of Criterion C, Engine House No. 47 is eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

Laura H. Hughes, Architectural
Historian
Patricia C. Altman, Architectural
Historian

Prepared by:

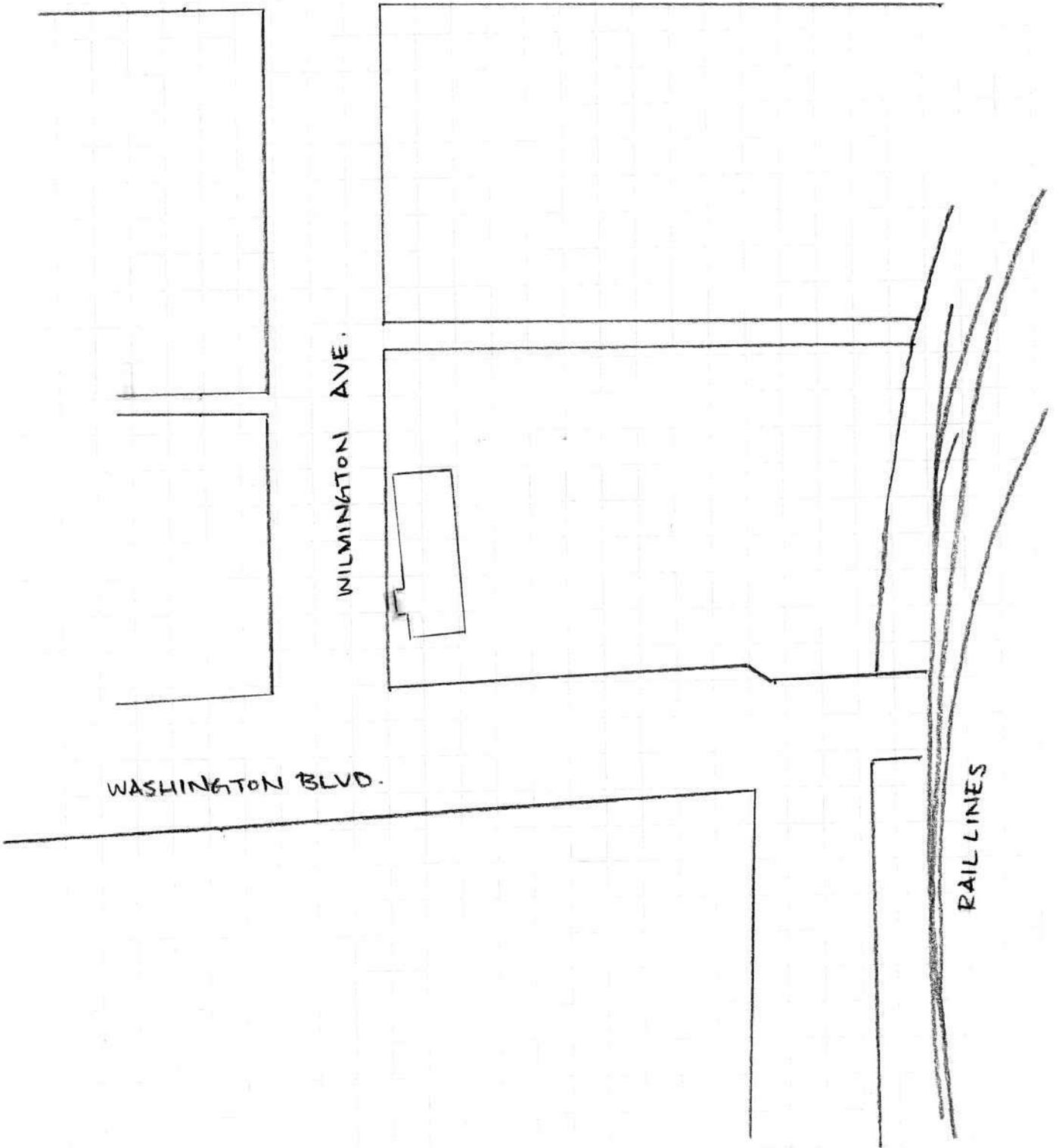
Date Prepared: October 16, 2002

ENGINE HOUSE No. 47
2608 WASHINGTON BLVD.
BALTIMORE, MD
BALTIMORE COUNTY

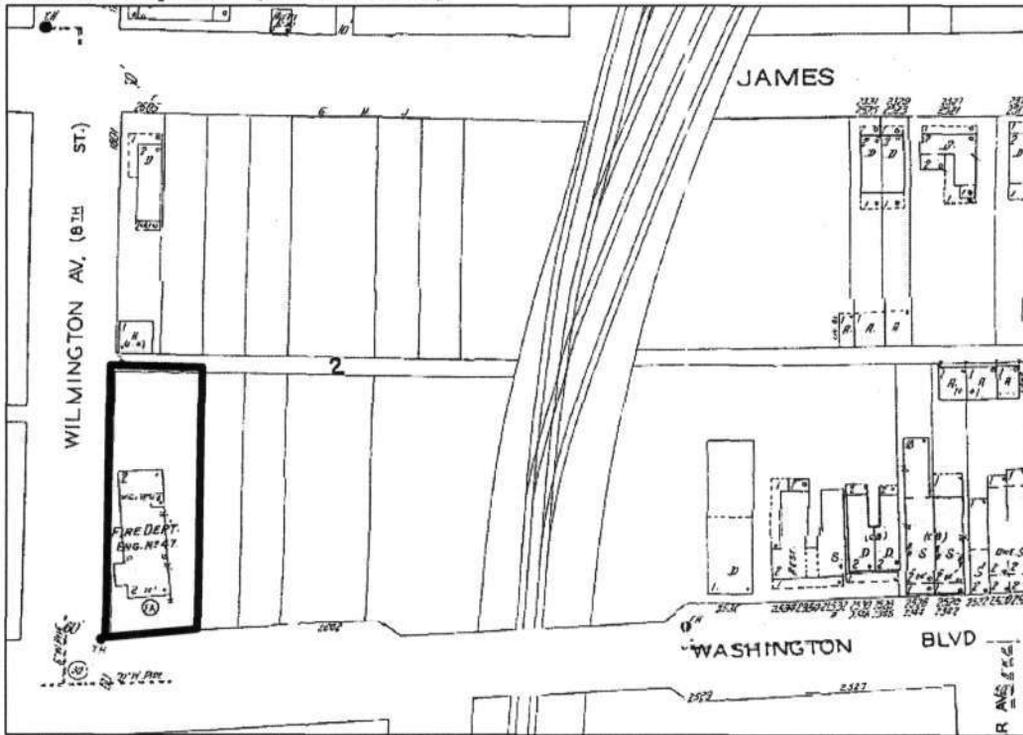


RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

B-1348



B-1348
Engine House No. 47
2608 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore
Sanborn Map 1914 (Revised 1953)



Baltimore City iMap image, 2006





0.5 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 10 40

B-1348
ENGINE HOUSE NO. 47
2608 WASHINGTON BLVD.
BALTIMORE CITY, MD

357000m E

WASHINGTON, D.C. 29 MI. INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1975
 GLEN BURNIE 6.2 MI. 76

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
 Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

○ Interstate Route ◻ U. S. Route ○ State Route

BALTIMORE WEST, MD
 SW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3915—W7637.5/7.5
 1953
 PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND 1974
 AMS 5662 1 SW—SERIES V833

1 MILE
 5000 6000 7000 FEET
 1 KILOMETER

DATE OF 1929
 IS MEAN LOW WATER
 F MEAN HIGH WATER
 ET

MARYLAND
 QUADRANGLE LOCATION

STANDARD SURVEY
 VIRGINIA 22092
 IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

BALTO FIRE DEPT.
1910

THE BALTO FIRE DEPT. HAS THE HONOR
TO
BE THE FIRST TO RECEIVE IN BALTO
THE NEWEST MODEL AUTOMOBILE

These automobiles belong to the
Washington Post

LEARN UP FOR
FIRE SAFETY



B-1348

ENGINE HOUSE No 47
2608 WASHINGTON BLVD
BALTIMORE CITY, MD

TRACERIES

10/02

MD SHPO

southeast elevation, view looking west

Photo 1 of 7



BALTO FIRE DEPT

10

47

2608

FOR SAFETY IN YOUR HOME
TO
FOR SAFETY EDUCATION IN YOUR
NEIGHBORHOODS

LEARN UP FOR
FIRE SAFETY

B-1348

ENGINE HOUSE No. 47
2608 WASHINGTON BLVD
BALTIMORE CITY, MD

TRACERIES

10102
MD SHPO

South east elevation, view looking northwest

photo 2 of 7



B-1348

ENGINE House No. 47

2608 WASHINGTON BLVD.

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

TRACESRIES

10/02

MD SHPO

South corner, view looking north

Photo 3 of 71



B-1348

ENGINE HOUSE No 47

2608 WASHINGTON BLVD.

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

TRACERIES

10/02

MD SHPO

Southwest elevation, view from Wilmington Avenue looking east

Photo 7 of 14
9 7



B-1348

ENGINE HOUSE No 47
2608 WASHINGTON BLVD.
BALTIMORE CITY, MD

TRACERIES

10/02

MD SHPO

northwest elevation, view looking southeast

Photo H of 14
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B-1348

ENGINE HOUSE No. 47

2608 WASHINGTON BLVD.

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

TRACERIES

10/02

MD SHPO

northwest elevation, hose tower, fence, view looking east

photo 9 of ~~14~~
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B-1348

ENGINE HOUSE No. 47
2608 WASHINGTON BLVD
BALTIMORE CITY, MD

TRACERIES

10/02

MD SHPO

Southwest elevation, view looking south

Photo 13 of 14
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