

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name ENGINE HOUSE NO. 8

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 1027 West Mulberry Street N/A  not for publication

city, town Baltimore N/A  vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Independent City code 510 zip code 21201

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

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

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Iron Architecture of Baltimore, MD, 1850-1904

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

12/12/94  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/fire station

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

ITALINATE

foundation Brickwalls IronBrickroof Asphaltother Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:**

Engine House No. 8 is a two-story Italianate influenced masonry building with a cast-iron street front, erected in 1871 to provide improved fire protection for the growing western precinct of Baltimore.

See continuation sheet no. 1  
for General Description

**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1871  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1871  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**THEME:**

Cast Iron Architecture in Baltimore, Maryland, 1850-1904.

**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:**

Engine House No. 8 is significant as representing a Cast Iron Storefront type building. Engine House No. 8 is the only known extant example in Baltimore of a public building with a cast iron front. This front is identical to the fronts used on commercial buildings.

See continuation sheet no. 2  
for Historic Context & Maryland  
Comprehensive Historic Preservation  
Plan data.

## 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

 See continuation sheet no. 4

## Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acreUSGS quad: Baltimore West, MD

## UTM References

A 

1	8	3	5	8	9	3	0	4	3	5	0	3	9	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

 See continuation sheet

## Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are defined as a single city lot, specifically identified as Block 156, Lot 7, recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City, Maryland.

 See continuation sheet

## Boundary Justification

The nominated property comprises the city lot upon which the resource stands.

 See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian

organization Baltimore Heritage, Inc. date June 16, 1990

street & number 109 Brandon Road telephone (410) 296-7538

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21212

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetENGINE HOUSE NO. 8  
Baltimore  
MarylandSection number 7 Page 1**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

Engine House No. 8 is a two-story masonry building with a cast-iron street front, erected in 1871. It is located on the south side of West Mulberry Street in West Baltimore. The building is characterized by relatively elaborate architectural detailing, reflecting influence of the Italianate style. The street level has a cast iron front, three bays wide; the central bay is twice as wide as the outer bays, to accommodate fire equipment. Iron columns with lamb's-tongue chamfers define the bays; the columns are enriched with recessed panels focusing on a central bulls-eye motif, and have molded bases and capitals. [The column at the right side of the central bay is missing, and the entire front has been infilled with cinder block, with a pair of plywood double doors in the center.] Iron pilasters mark the corners of the street front; they are more robust than the columns, but otherwise similar in detailing. The central bull's eye incorporates the numeral 8 on the pilasters. The three bays of the street front are topped with flat arches with rounded corners, enriched with heavy bolection molding; the central bay has an iron keystone motif. A simple cornice caps the street front, with a central iron element bearing the legend "N<sup>o</sup>. 8", and recessed panels at the ends.

The upper story exhibits fine decorative brickwork typical of the Italianate style. The three bays are defined by round-arched window openings with cut stone sills, radiating brick arches, and corbeled brick hoods; the central window is both taller and wider than the flanking openings. The upper facade is framed by projecting brick pilasters, and capped with a row of bracket-like corbeled elements below a paneled brick frieze. Scrolled wooden brackets support a projecting cornice, surmounted by a three-part pediment; the cornice and pediment appear to be constructed of sheet metal. Documentary sources indicate that the building formerly incorporated a fire tower, which was removed in the 1950s.

The building retains a relatively high level of integrity, despite the alteration of the street front. Its essential cast-iron elements remain largely intact; the missing column could be replicated using the surviving one as a model, and the elaborately detailed brickwork survives in good condition.

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Baltimore  
Maryland

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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930;

Modern, A.D. 1930-[1941]

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape/Architecture and Community  
Planning;

Government/Law

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

GOVERNMENT/fire station

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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**HISTORY & SUPPORT:**

In the late 1860's, the northwestern section of Baltimore was the focus of intense and rapid residential development. The city fire department, undergoing reorganization as a result of an ordinance passed in 1868, recommended the establishment of an Engine Company to serve the burgeoning western section of the city. The Mayor's message for 1869 confirmed this recommendation, noting that fire protection "seems so important as to rise almost to the dignity of a right due, but withheld from a large and rapidly growing part of our city" (1869, p. 15). Evaluation of the present state of fire protection showed that it took at least fifteen minutes for the nearest engine to reach the center of the area; burning buildings on the far side of the area were practically doomed.

In response to this need, the City Council in 1869 appropriated \$21,000 for the establishment of an Engine Company in this precinct. Following the purchase of a lot and development of building plans, the appropriation was determined insufficient, and an additional \$6,000 was requested. These financial difficulties, and later delays in construction, postponed the organization of the new fire company until March 8, 1871. Engine Company No. 8 operated from this building until December 1912, when concerns about its structural condition prompted a relocation to the headquarters of Truck Company No. 10. This move was initially expected to be temporary, but the building is not indicated as a fire house on the 1914 Sanborn map. By 1915, Engine Company No. 8 was officially listed as located on Lafayette Avenue near Stricker Street.

The building may have remained vacant until 1928, when it was taken over by the motorcycle shop of Louis M. Helm. The upper story functioned as a clubhouse for a series of boys' clubs into the 1940s, including the Boy's Brigade (1928) and the Camp Mil-Bur Cadets (1940). Lou's Motor Service--presumably a successor firm to Louis M. Helm, motorcycles--occupied the building from 1940 into the 1960s. It is still used for automobile repairs today.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENGINE HOUSE NO.8  
Baltimore  
Maryland

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## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Annual Reports of the Fire Commissioner to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, 1868-1871

Baltimore City Directories, 1870s-1960s

Murray, William A. The Unheralded Heroes of Baltimore's Big Blazes: A Story About Baltimore Firefighters. n. p.: author, 1969.