

(Oct. 1990)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



454

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**HISTORIC NAME:** Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** N/A

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** 401 East Fifth Street  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Austin  
**STATE:** Texas      **CODE:** TX      **COUNTY:** Travis      **CODE:** 453      **ZIP CODE:** 78700  
**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A  
**VICINITY:** N/A

**3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this   x   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   x   meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide   x   locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*[Handwritten Signature]*

*3/24/00*

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. 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):

*[Handwritten Signature: Edson H. Beal]*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

*5.5.00*

---

**5. CLASSIFICATION**

---

**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** City of Austin, Texas

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	1	1 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	1 TOTAL

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** N/A

---

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

---

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

---

**7. DESCRIPTION**

---

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** MODERN MOVEMENT/ Moderne

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION CONCRETE  
WALLS BRICK  
ROOF  
OTHER GLASS

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-12).



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

### Description

The Austin Central Fire Station (1938), 401 East Fifth Street, is a 2-story brick building with 'streamline moderne' characteristics. The most prominent feature of the building is its symmetrical massing. (See Section 7, Page 9) The majority of the building is finished with light buff/sand rough face brick. Ornamentation consists of manipulated brick coursings, with darker tan bricks recessed in horizontal rows to suggest streamlining at various points throughout the facade. The foundation has reinforced concrete footings. All roofs on the building are flat and several are used as terraces, establishing the station's affinity to International Modernism.

The building is in downtown Austin adjacent to the Sixth Street nightclub district. It shares the block, named 'Brush Park', one of the four public parks in the original town plat, with the historic O. Henry House. (See Section 7, Page 10) The immediate setting also contains a mixture of other types of buildings including small manufacturing businesses, residential apartments and office buildings. The firehouse is a 55 x 55 foot building located on a flat site consisting of one quarter acre on the corner of Trinity and Fifth streets. A paved parking lot at the rear of the building is surrounded by a chain link fence. The remainder of the lot directly south of the fire house is grass-covered and unoccupied.

The original landscaping consisted of two small areas of grass, at the northwest corner, divided by a foot path in front of the entrance as well as six small round bushes along the front facade. Various small shrubs and bushes bordered the sides and rear of the building. During the 1940s two large pecan trees were planted in the center of each grassy section in front to commemorate the death of a city firefighter killed in World War II. Today the two pecan trees are very large and their foliage obscures much of the building. The patches of grass under the trees has been replaced with a variety of small bushes and low ground covering plants. The basic layout of the original landscaping, however, remains the same.

The original building design features identical 2-story wings that extend north and west from each side of the curved entrance. Each wing consists of three garage openings with overhead doors and wide concrete driveways to the street. (See Section 7, Pages 11 and 12)

The wing on the north side of the building faces Fifth Street. It includes a small garage entrance designed for an automobile. This opening is flanked by two vertical cylindrical light fixtures with white frosted glass globes and a frame overlay of unknown white metal. Brick is used ornamentally directly above this bay. Eight vertical rows of dark tan bricks, sixteen bricks high, are recessed approximately one inch from the rest of the facade. Each row of dark brick is flanked by a vertical row of lighter tan brick that is not recessed. The recessed rows create bands of shadow relief that give the facade interest and texture. Functional brick also



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

contributes a vernacular aspect to an otherwise unusually modern building for the city of Austin. The bricks were manufactured locally using yellow Austin clay.

The first floor of the north wing contains two large garage openings directly to the east of the small bay. The large bays were designed to accommodate fire trucks. These openings are set back approximately five feet from the rest of the lower façade and are finished entirely in light tan brick. The original overhead doors for all the garage bays were solid wood with four rows of recessed panels. They were replaced in 1983 with contemporary style white metal doors featuring a horizontal row of small square windows. The North wing also includes a 1-story addition, originally housing the administration offices for the department. Constructed in 1962, this addition is constructed of similar materials and does not detract from the building's original design.

The exterior of the second story street front of the north wing is continuous with the first story only at the point above the smaller garage opening. This section forms one of the most vertical elements of the building with ornamental brick design continuing to the second story. Directly above the small garage opening is a small, shallow, brick balcony. This balcony is not functional but is architecturally symbolic of the alarm tower of past fire houses, an element that was synonymous with a fire station within a community. A small, rectangular window is placed vertically in the center of the facade above the balcony. This window was originally a wooden sash type, divided into five panes, but was replaced with metal frame sash windows with two panes in 1983. The balcony features three horizontal bands of ornamental dark tan brick across its width. The dark bricks are recessed approximately one inch from the rest of the façade and are separated by five rows of light brick. The ornamental brick work also extends vertically along the sides of the small narrow balcony window from the top of the balcony to the top of the building.

The second story above the large garage openings is set back slightly from the first floor facade. This area consists of two small offices and dormitory rooms. Originally a set of double doors led outside to one of the rooftop decks from the men's dormitory area. These doors were converted to a single door at a later, unknown date. The floor plan of the dormitory area is unchanged although the interior has evolved through the years. The primary alteration in this area is the covering of the original hardwood flooring with vinyl tile. The original casement windows have been replaced with metal frame, two-pane, sash type windows. The fire pole opening is still intact in the north east corner of the dormitory room.

The central section of the building faces northwest, toward Fifth and Trinity Streets. The first floor street front consists of a curved portico with four vertical rectangular openings separated by four squared columns. This curved element is a typical characteristic of the 'streamline moderne' style. Behind the portico is a band of windows. These windows were originally casement style but were replaced with brown metal frame windows in 1983. Doors flank each side of the interior ends of the portico. One original wooden door remains consisting of three rectangular panes of clear glass placed horizontally one above the other with a bottom panel of solid wood. The other door was replaced at an unknown date with a smooth metal door.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

featuring a clear square of plate glass in the upper panel. Both of these doors lead into the original recreation room, still used for this function.

The second story portion of the northwest section has a central element that faces the corners of Fifth and Trinity Streets. Two walls extend from the center portion of the second story to form a block type structure that is set at an angle to the front facade. This contains the main bathroom for the firefighters. Three small rectangular windows form a horizontal band near the upper portion of each wall. This section of the building is set back from the portico facade on the flat roof. The recessing of the second story is another characteristic of the 'streamline moderne' style. A roof top 'deck' is formed by the space directly in front and to the south and east of this set back portion of the building. This is one of several decks that were designed for use by the firefighters in their spare time. Originally they served as a place to sit and enjoy fresh air and to cool off during hot weather before central air conditioning was added during a later remodeling.

The west wing facade is identical to the north wing with one exception: wood-slatted frames are attached to the exterior of the second story kitchen windows to provide a sunscreen for this room.

The interior floor plan of the first floor of the north wing is intact. The area still serves its original purpose as a storage area for the fire trucks. An original fire pole descends from the second level dormitory above to the area between where the two trucks park. It consists of a circular opening in the ceiling approximately four feet in diameter and a brass pole approximately five inches in diameter. Minor cosmetic changes have been made, such as the addition of wooden lockers around the interior perimeter of the area.

The first floor interior of the central section consists of the recreation room. The original floor plan of this room remains unchanged. An original staircase leading to the second floor has a stainless steel rail, in an Art Deco design, that is in very good condition. The railing extends the length of the staircase, from the second floor to the first floor landing, then turns to follow the stairs and curves downward to the ground. The three foot high rail consists of four flat bands of stainless steel measuring one-half inch by one inch placed approximately eight inches apart. The original metal casement windows in this areas have been replaced with contemporary brown metal frame double-pane sash windows. The original terrazzo floors have been covered with a resilient floor covering. The interior space of this wing is unique on both levels. The first floor interior is used for vehicle storage but also contains a long, rectangular office space. This space originally housed the PBX dispatch office serving as the central dispatch for the city. Interior windows facing into the garage area from the office were blocked at an unknown date. The area is still used as an office but now houses the EMS department. The second floor of the west wing contains the kitchen and a small room with an adjacent locker area and bathroom. The floor plan for this area remains unchanged; however, there has been complete cosmetic remodeling at an unknown date. The kitchen contains none of the original fixtures. This area has a door that leads onto the west end of the rooftop deck adjacent to the dormitory. A small room on this wing was originally the chief's dormitory, but is now used as a study. The locker area and bathroom areas still serve there original function.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

---

This building retains a high degree of integrity. It is located on its original site, a prominent downtown street corner, and is still used for its original function as Austin's central fire station. The property retains the Streamlined Moderne style through its original, highly articulated massing. Although original door and window materials have been replaced, the pattern of fenestration remains unchanged. All key exterior surface materials and ornamental brick detailing are original and enable the building to retain its original surface texture and color. Although the interior has undergone remodeling, the original arrangement of spaces remains unchanged with almost every room used for the purpose for which it was originally designed. Two brass fire poles and a metal stair railing, significant interior character defining features, are still in their original location and in excellent condition.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

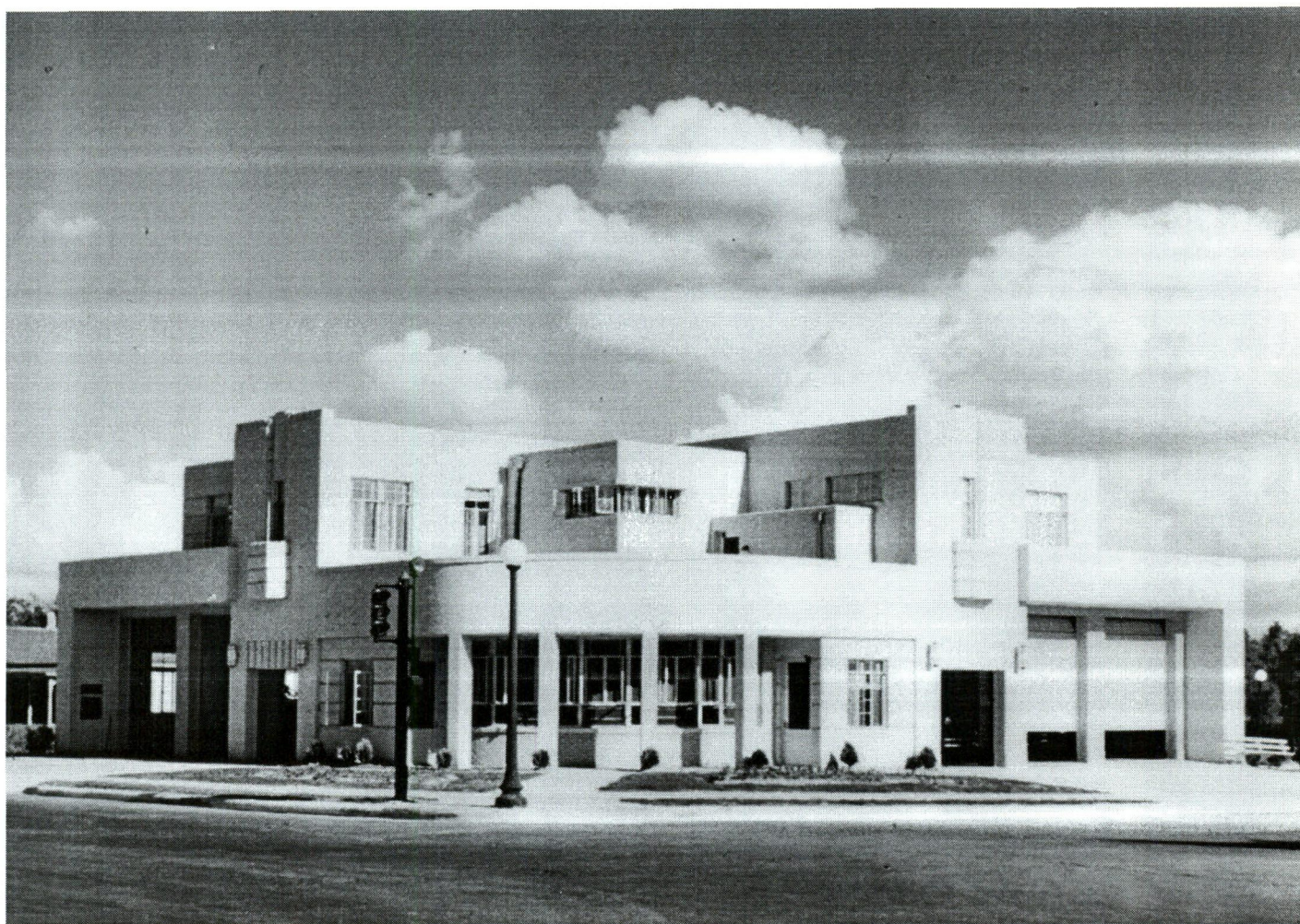
Section 7 Page 9

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Austin Central Fire Station, 401 East Fifth Street, Austin, TX

Historic Photo (date unknown)

Source: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library #Pica 04948





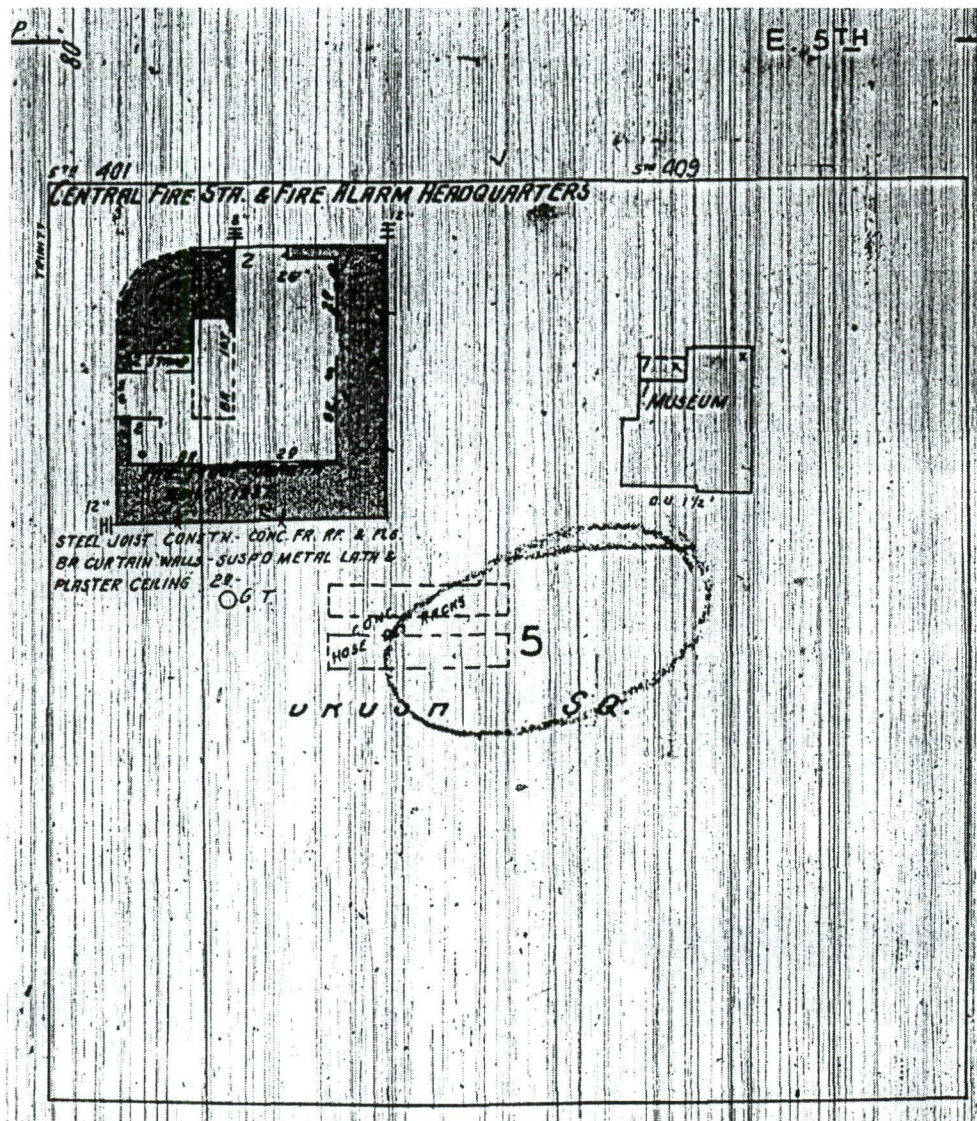
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 10

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Sanborn Insurance Map (c.1945), Brush Square, Austin, TX





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

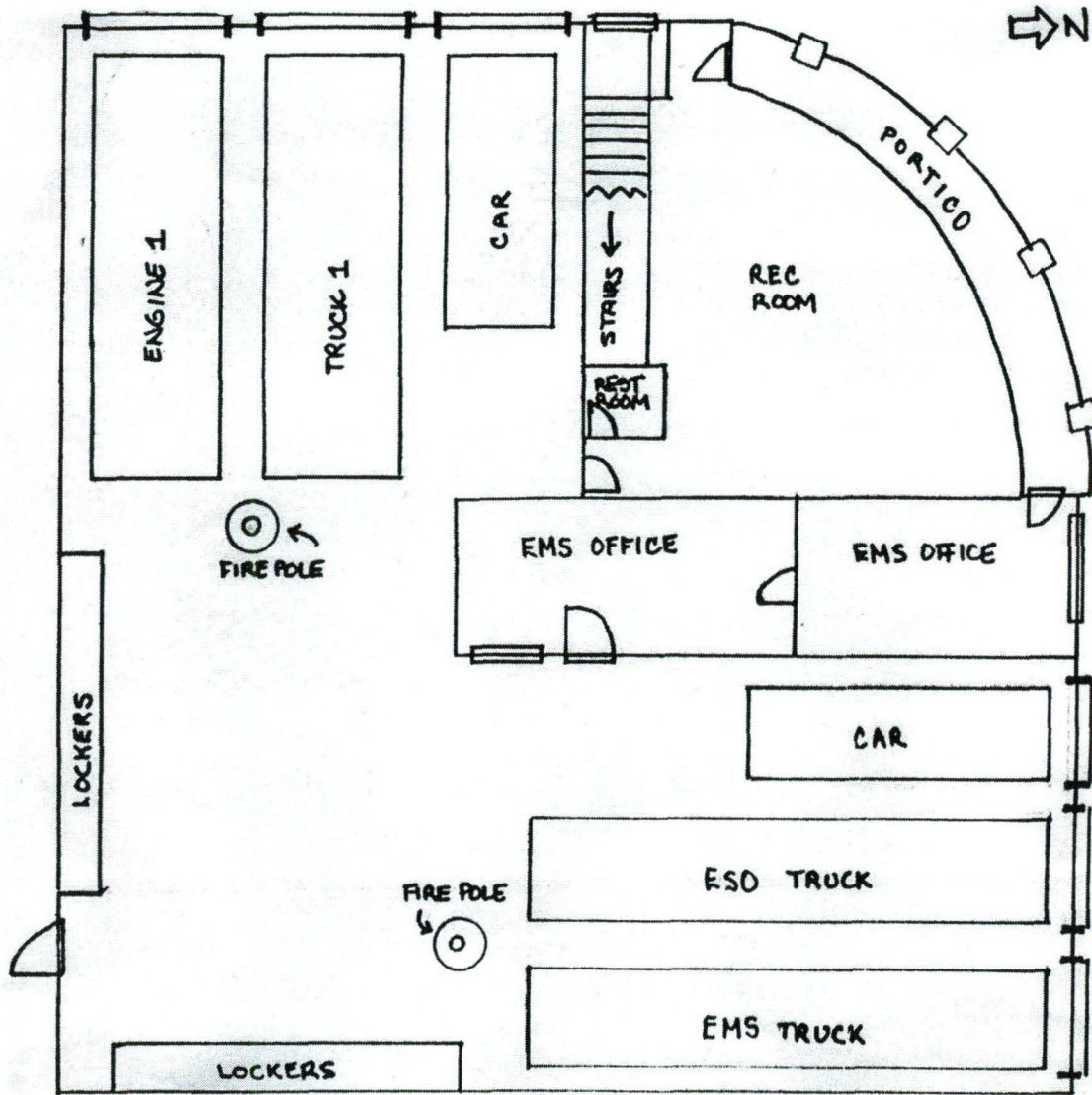
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 11

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

First Floor Plan - Austin Central Fire Station

Not to Scale



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

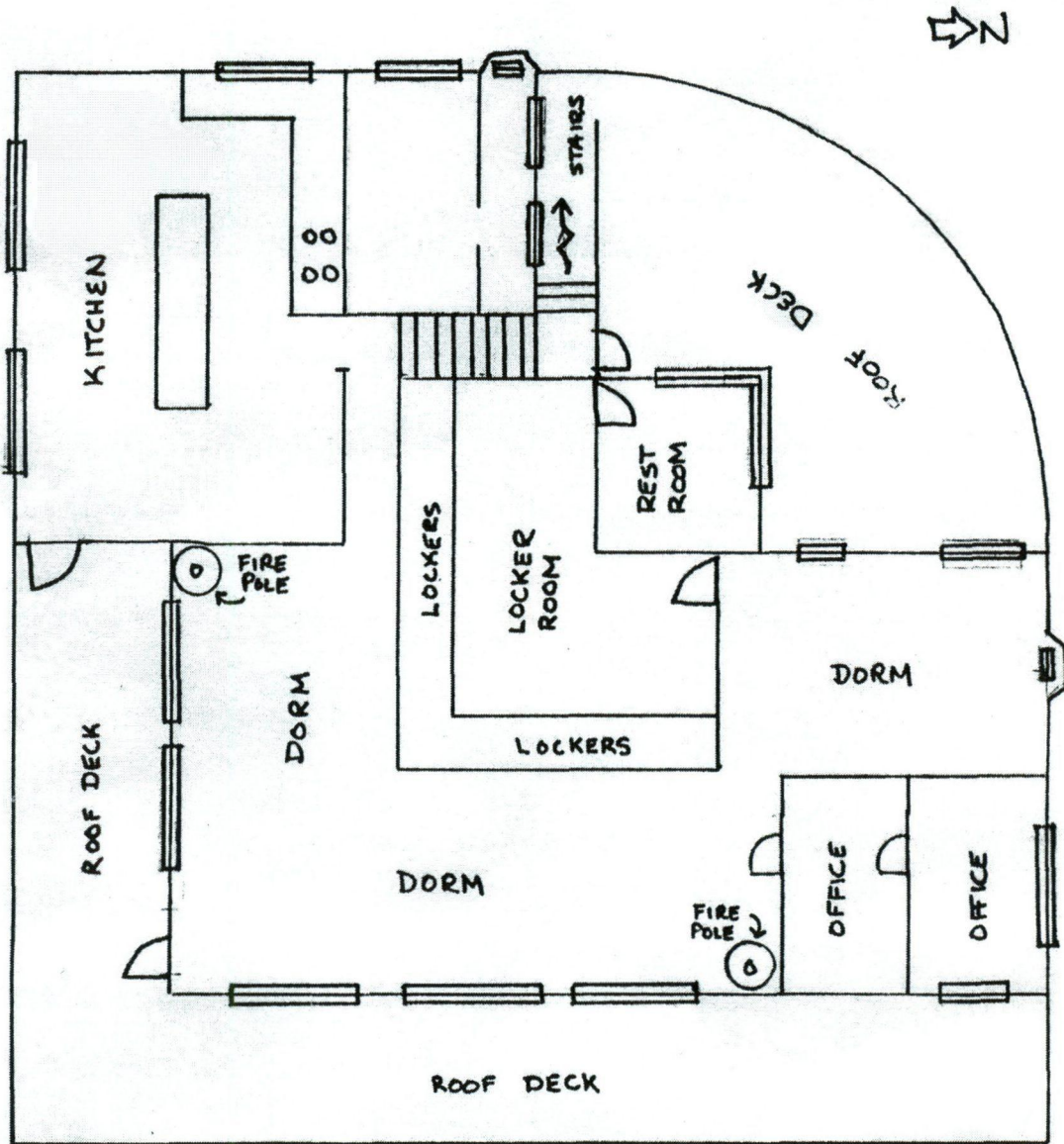
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 12

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Second Floor Plan - Austin Central Fire Station

Not to Scale



---

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

---

**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

- 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 VALUE, 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:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Architecture; Community Planning and Development

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1938

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1938

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Kreisle, Edwin C. and Brooks, Max (architects)

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-13 through 8-20).

---

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheet 9-21).

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

- 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 (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government (City of Austin, Austin History Center)
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

### Statement of Significance

Austin's Central Fire Station (#1) was designed in 1938 by the firm of Kreisle and Brooks as part of the federal Public Works Administration (PWA) program. The design of the fire station illustrates the Streamlined Moderne style, seen in several Austin municipal buildings of the period. It is an excellent example of the city's emphasis on modern construction and style and symbolizes the desire to perpetuate Austin's dramatic growth and create the image of a progressive, modern city. The building is nominated under criteria A in the area of Community Planning and Development and criteria C in the area of Architecture, both at the local level of significance.

Despite the 1930s Depression, Austin, like most of urban Texas, experienced dramatic growth during the first four decades of the 20th century. The city of Austin celebrated its centennial as the capital of Texas in 1939, and the city leaders desiring to create an image of Austin as a major Texas city, undertook an ambitious building program. The 25th anniversary edition of the *Austin American* newspaper devoted much of its extremely large Sunday June 5, 1938, edition to illustrate the changes to the city over the past 25 years. One article, entitled, "The Tale of One City In Step With Progress" emphasized Austin as a "City Government and Community Marching Forward" and highlighted the building program's most recent accomplishments as proof that Austin was meeting the challenge of its rapidly expanding municipal needs.(See Section 8, Page 17)

During the Depression, municipalities all over the country received financial aid from the Public Works Administration (PWA) to assist with the construction of new structures and the remodeling of existing ones.(Robinson p288) The PWA, part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, intended to benefit employment and to stimulate the building industry. It authorized financing for public building projects of many kinds in the form of grants and loans upon approval of applications submitted by local governments.(Robinson p272) Local agencies commissioned architects and awarded construction contracts based on bids.

The Austin City Council minutes from August 25, 1935 recognized the city manager's authority to file such an application to the PWA for a grant to aid in the financing of the construction of several public building projects. In addition to a new Central Fire Station, the city manager requested funds for a new city hall, municipal auditorium, incinerator, and service station, as well as a rehabilitation of the Austin Dam, the emergency water works, and the water and light system.(Austin City Council Minutes 8/25/35)

The Council chose co-partners Edwin Clinton Kreisle and R. Max Brooks for the project. Edwin, the grandson of pioneer merchant Matthew Kreisle, represented one of Austin's most prominent families. Edwin Kreisle continued working primarily by himself for the remainder of his career becoming a prolific architect,



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

responsible for approximately 1,000 residences in Austin alone. Max Brooks, a 1933 graduate of the University of Texas, also worked with several successful Austin firms including Giesecke, Kuehne and Brooks (1942), Brooks Barr, Graeber and White, and Brooks and Barr.(AIA p67)

During the 1930s, new theories of architecture evolved in Europe and America reflecting a desire for buildings expressing the ideas of modern industrial society and the people and institutions it served.(Robinson p262) Simplicity, articulation, unbroken lines, and the use of new materials symbolized this architecture style.(Robinson p263) It appeared to symbolize "better times and a New Deal" during the Depression years.(Robinson p264) Known as Streamlined Moderne, this style characterized the buildings of the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas. It is likely that the architecture of this extremely popular fair influenced the design choice for the new Austin station.

Designed as a showpiece to promote Austin's image as a modern, growing city, Kreisle and Brooks' central fire station utilized the concepts of the Moderne style to create a piece of municipal architecture that reflected the pride and the esteem of the city's residents.(Robinson p260) To do this, they created a building radically different from its predecessor. The original station #1, built in the late 1800s, adjacent to the old city hall on 8th Street, was a 2-story Italianate style building with wooden porches spanning the length of the front facade on both levels. The large wooden alarm tower that rose above the roof signified 'fire house' to the surrounding community.(Robinson 143-4) The Moderne style of the new fire station reflected a different attitude towards spatial planning. It was characterized by an emphasis on efficiency and the elimination of wasted space.(Robinson p264) The plan of the Austin station is a fine illustration of this design approach. The city council specifically commissioned the building to be built on a corner site to "face both Trinity and 5th streets" facilitating access from two sides.(Austin City Council Minutes p348)

The site chosen for the new station was Brush Park, one of the city's four original parks. Like the previous central fire station site, this was a prominent, downtown location. In 1938 the 1.75 acre lot, once the original site of the Austin public market, remained largely unoccupied except for the O. Henry House museum moved to the northeast corner of the lot several years earlier.

The design conceived by Kreisle and Brooks took advantage of the flat, corner location.(Henry p212-3) The two symmetrical masses containing the equipment bays emptied onto separate streets, thus providing efficient access into the community in two different directions. This was a radical change in fire house design at the time since most stations built up until that time faced directly onto one street.

The design of the new central station also differed greatly from the other Austin stations of the 1930s. Built as part of local neighborhoods, these satellite stations utilized a variety of styles. Cottage-like in appearance, they harmonized with the residential neighborhoods in which they were located. The fire



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

department referred to these stations as 'bungalows'. Other neighborhood 'bungalow' stations built during the 1930s, include the Hancock, Hyde Park, and South Austin stations.(See Section 8, Pages 18-20) In contrast, the 1938 central fire station's modern, geometrical form announced that it was a thoroughly urban building symbolizing a modern Austin.

The station's design featured two garage sections connected by a graceful, curved portico opening onto the intersection of Fifth and Trinity.(Henry p213) This smooth, curved form illustrated the 'streamlined' element of the Streamline Moderne style and was an expression of twentieth century developments in industry and transportation. The terraces created by the building's flat roofs also reflected the Moderne ideal of maximum utilization by its users. Fire crews could take advantage of the Texas climate in privacy and without having to travel far from their quarters. Before the building was air conditioned, firefighters often moved their beds out onto the deck adjacent to their dormitory on hot summer nights.(See Section 8, Page 21) These characteristics illustrate the new Moderne attitude that combined beauty and function in design.

The Austin Central Fire Station meets Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development. As one of many new buildings constructed during Austin's building program of the 1930s, the Central Fire Station was an integral piece in the City's plan to promote an image of growth and prosperity. The building meets Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The Streamline Moderne style chosen for the building exemplified the most current architectural design. The addition of a new and modern urban station symbolized the city's priority for providing its citizens with the most up-to-date fire protection services.

The property retains a high degree of integrity of location, materials, design, workmanship, setting, feeling and association with the period of significance and is maintained in excellent condition. With the exception of the replacement of the original windows and doors, all other alterations have been primarily cosmetic. Its suitability of design is confirmed by the fact that the building still functions as a city fire station in one of Austin's busiest downtown commercial districts.

The fire station is currently threatened by initiatives to expand the Austin Convention Center. As Austin experiences another public building boom, the pressure on low-rise historic downtown buildings also increases. The fire station is an important piece of the story of Austin at a particular time in history and it is an architectural illustration of the municipal priorities of Austin's past city leaders and residents.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

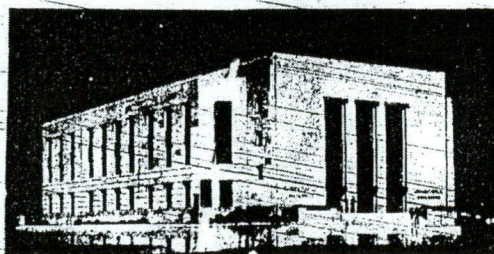
Section 8 Page 16

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

*Austin American*, June 5, 1938

## THE TALE OF ONE CITY *... in Step With Progress*

*A Friendly City...  
A Growing City*



AUSTIN'S NEW CITY HALL

*A City Government  
and Community  
Marching Forward*

**WATCHING THE RAPID** expansion of the city of Austin, the city administration has now under way a construction program totaling \$565,000 when completed.

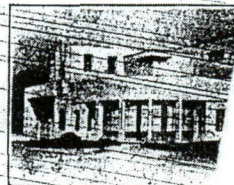
Foremost among these improvements is the remodeling and enlargement of the city hall at Eighth and Colorado streets, representing an outlay of \$203,100. Two three-story wings and another one-story wing are being added, doubling the floor space of the old building. This project will be completed about Sept. 1.

Two new fire stations have been added during 1938 including the new Central fire station at Fifth and Trinity streets costing approximately \$43,000 and the Westfield station on Windsor road and Forest Trail. This new neighborhood

station, costing approximately \$11,000, will serve the rapidly growing northwestern section of the city.

Construction of a new service building near the city water and light plant, costing \$40,500 was also started early in 1938 where warehouse facilities have been provided for supplies and materials carried by the water and light department and the various engineering divisions of the city.

Other construction projects underway in 1938 in Austin included a \$60,000 addition to the filtration plant, an addition to the municipal abattoir costing \$8,000, and completion of a \$200,000 electric extension program started in 1937.



NEW CENTRAL FIRE STATION



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

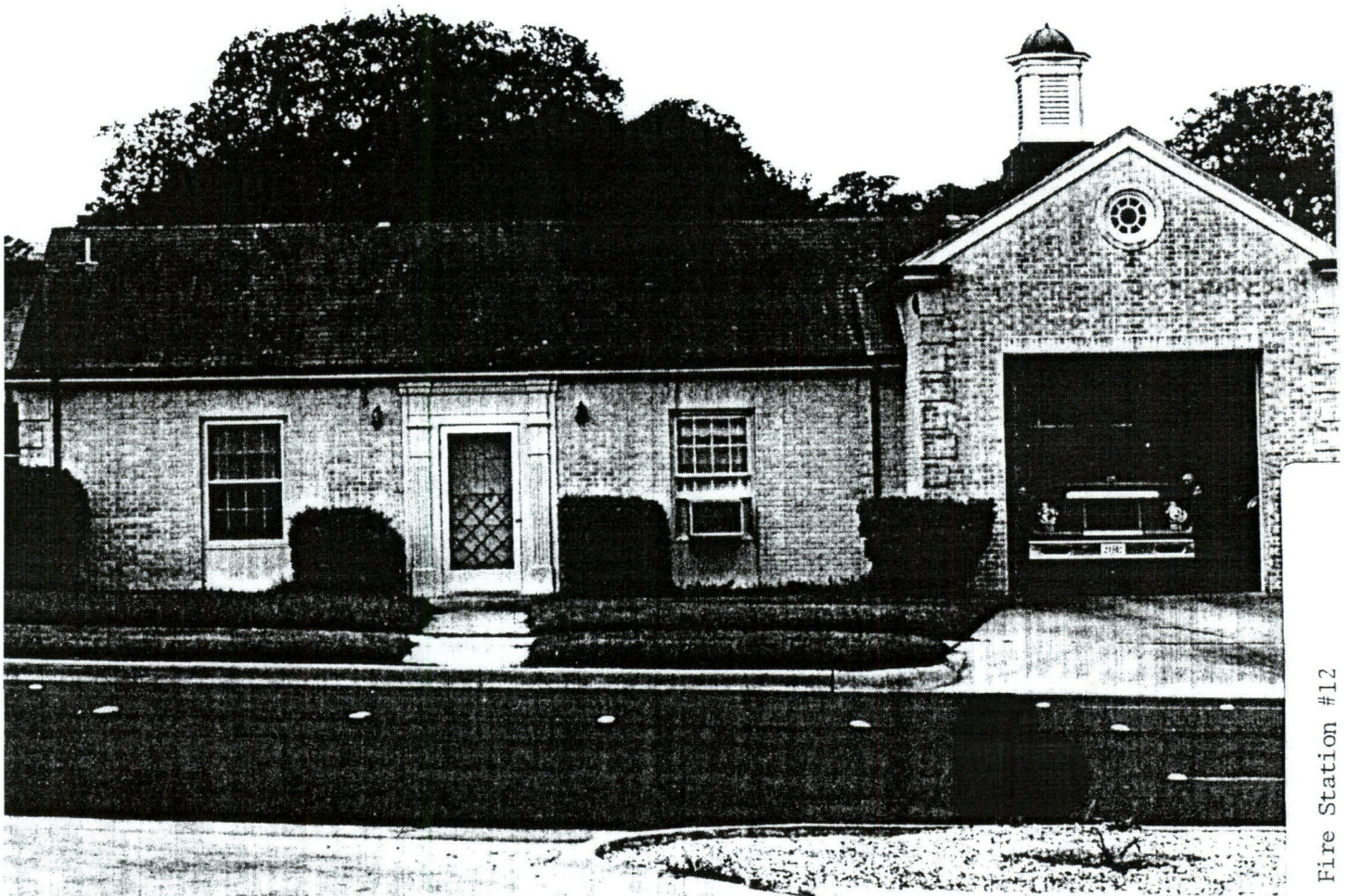
Section 8 Page 17

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Hancock Fire Station (#12)

2109 Hancock Drive, Austin

Source: Austin History Center, filed under photo file for Fire Stations (date unknown)



Fire Station #12



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

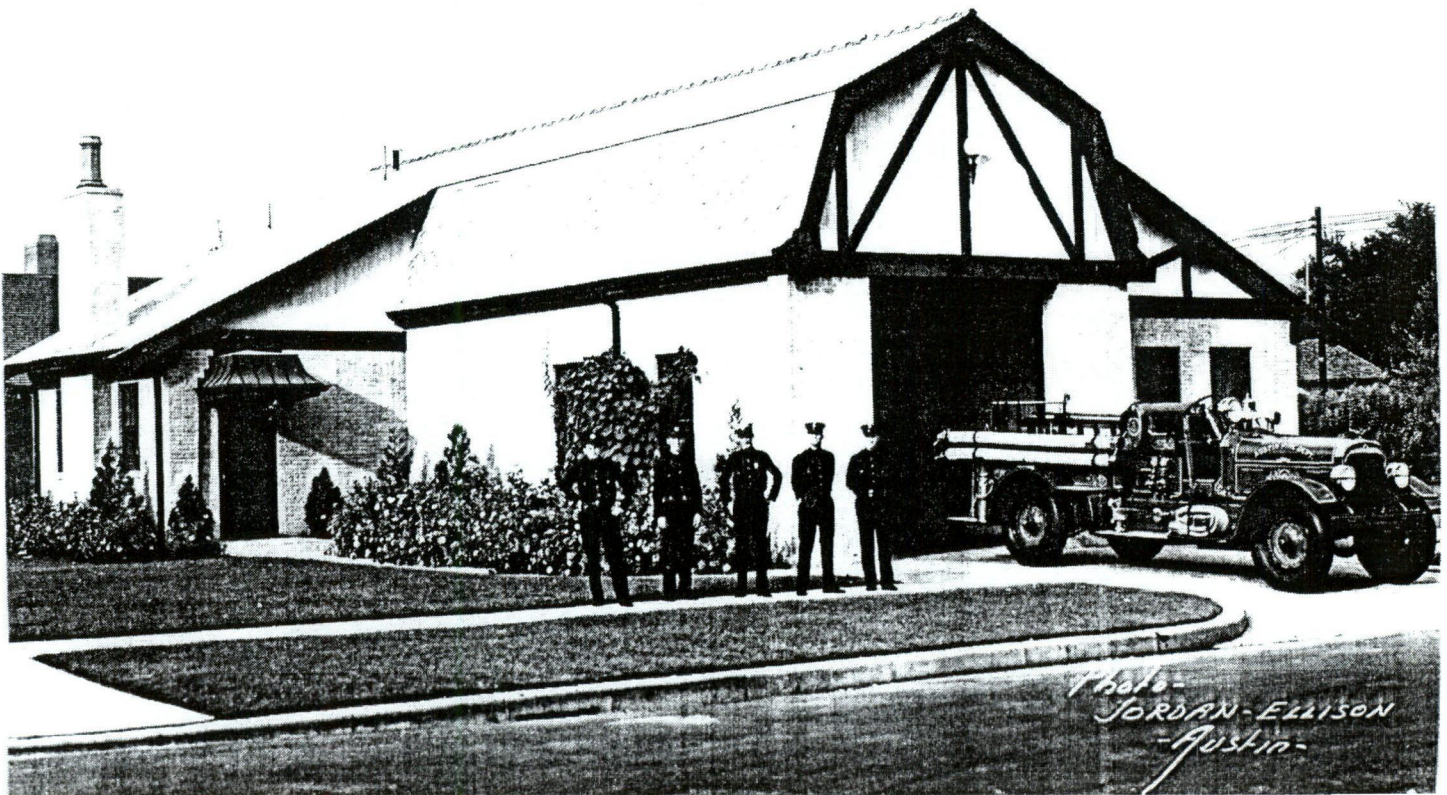
Section 8 Page 18

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Hyde Park Station

43<sup>rd</sup> St. and Speedway, Austin

Source: Austin History Center, filed under photo file for Fire Stations (date unknown)





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 19

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

South Congress Fire Station (#6)

1705 South Congress Avenue, Austin

Source: Austin History Center, filed under photo file for Fire Stations (date unknown)





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 20

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

Firefighter's Dormitory, Second Floor  
Central Fire Station, Austin

Source: Austin History Center, filed under photo file for Fire Stations (date unknown)

Note: Doors visible at end of room lead onto adjacent roof deck.





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 21

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

### Bibliography

Austin American "The Tale of One City In Step With Progress", June 5, 1938.  
"Your City Government Also Grows", June 5, 1938, p.10.

Austin Chapter American Institute of Architects. Austin: Its Architects and Architecture (1836-1986).  
Austin: Heritage Society of Austin, Inc., 1986.

Blueprints of original architectural drawings at City of Austin, Public Works Department.

City of Austin, City Council Minutes, 8/25/35 Resolution to file grant with PWA  
9/02/37 Architects selected  
6/10/37 Brush Square location chosen  
11/19/37 Contracts let.

Henry, Jay C. Architecture In Texas 1895-1945. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993.

Interview with Mr. Stanton Weiss conducted by author (audio cassette and outline of contents on file  
with the Texas Historical Commission), 4/16/98.

Photographs, varied, available at Austin History Center, filed under photo file for Fire Stations.

Robinson, Willard, B. Gone From Texas. College Station, TX: A& M University Press, c. 1981.

Robinson, Willard B. The People's Architecture: Texas Courthouses, Jails and Municipal Buildings.  
Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1983.

Robinson, Willard B. Texas Public Buildings of the 19th Century. Austin: University of Texas Press,  
1974.

Short, C.W. and Brown, R. Stanley. Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental  
Bodies between the Years 1933 and 1939 with Assistance of the PWA. Washington D.C: U.S.  
Government Printing Office, 1939

---

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

---

**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	621300	33487200	3	##	#####
2	##	#####	#####	4	##	#####

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheet 10-22)

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION** (see continuation sheet 10-22)

---

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

---

**NAME/TITLE:** Beth A. Fucci / Graduate Student (with assistance from Christie McLaren, THC Historian)

**ORGANIZATION:** The University of Texas, School of Architecture

**DATE:** April 1998

**STREET & NUMBER:** 4203 Sinclair Avenue

**TELEPHONE:** 512-452-4423

**CITY OR TOWN:** Austin

**STATE:** TX

**ZIP CODE:** 78756

---

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

---

**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS**

**PHOTOGRAPHS** PHOTO-23

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

---

**PROPERTY OWNER**

---

**NAME:** City of Austin

**STREET & NUMBER:** 1621 Festival Beach Road

**TELEPHONE:** 512-477-5784

**CITY OR TOWN:** Austin

**STATE:** TX

**ZIP CODE:** 78700



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 22

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

---

### Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 5, Brush Square Park; the northwest corner (approximately 1/4 of lot).

### Boundary Justification

This quarter block includes all associated elements of the Austin Central Fire Station (#1) that contribute to its historic significance and integrity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 23

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
Austin, Travis County, Texas

---

### Photo Log

Austin Central Fire Station (#1)  
401 East Fifth Street  
Austin, Travis County, Texas  
Photographed by Beth A. Fucci  
April 1998  
Negatives on file with Texas Historical Commission

North Elevation, camera facing south  
Photo 1 of 4

Northwestern Elevation, camera facing southeast  
Photo 2 of 4

West Elevation, camera facing east  
Photo 3 of 4

First floor interior, staircase  
Photo 4 of 4



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Austin Central Fire Station #1  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Travis

DATE RECEIVED: 4/06/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/19/00  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/05/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/21/00  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000454

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 5/5/00 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N





AUSTIN CENTRAL FIRE STATION  
401 EAST FIFTH STREET  
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS  
PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 4





AUSTIN CENTRAL FIRE STATION  
401 EAST FIFTH STREET  
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS  
PHOTOGRAPH 2074





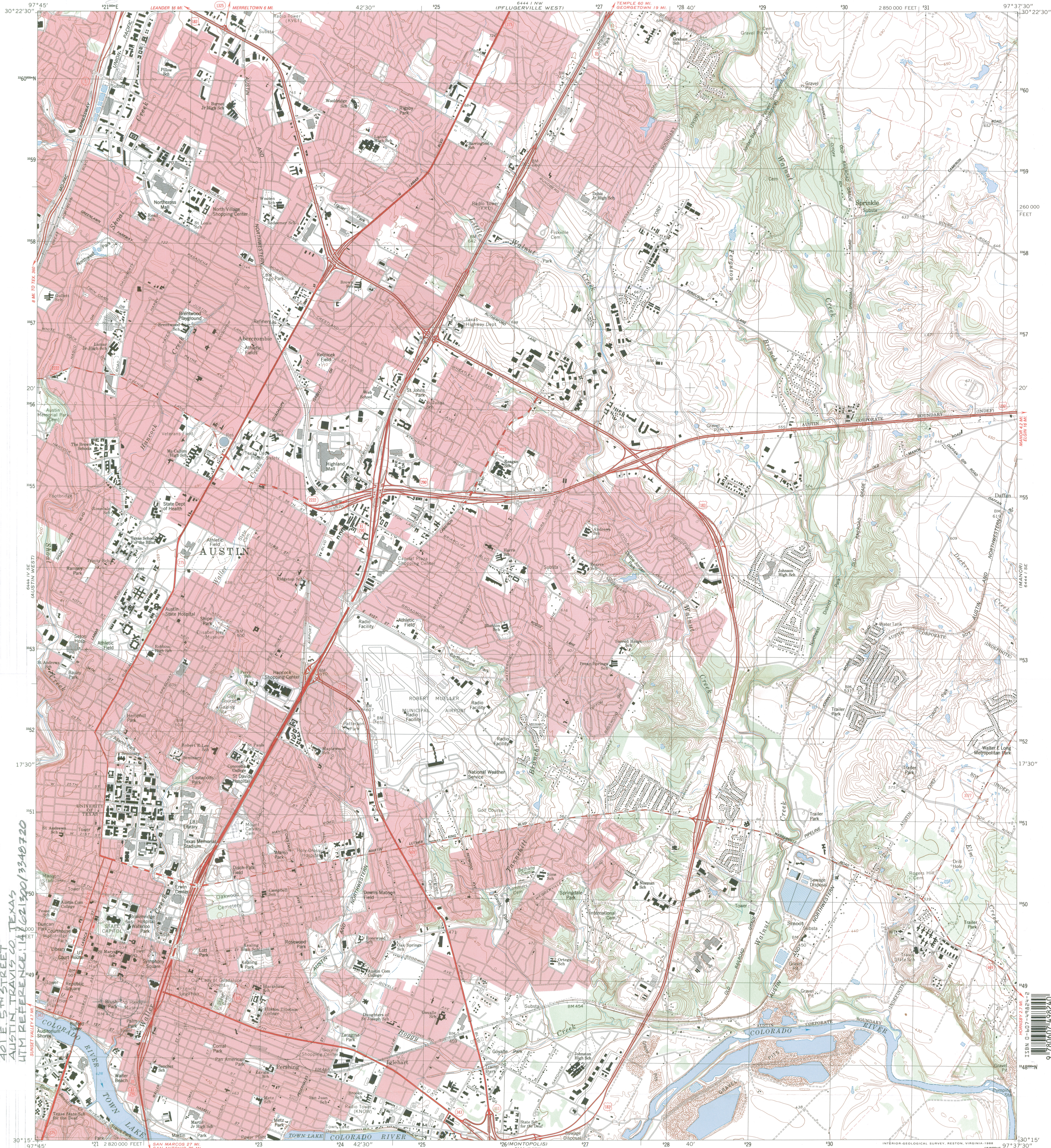
AUSTIN CENTRAL FIRE STATION  
401 EAST FIFTH STREET  
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS  
PHOTOGRAPH 374





AUSTIN CENTRAL FIRE Station  
401 East FIFTH STREET  
AUSTIN, TRAVIS Co., TEXAS  
PHOTOGRAPH 454

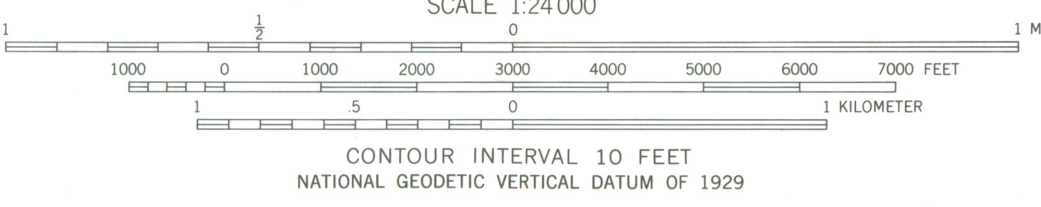
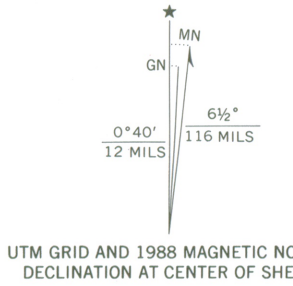




AUSTIN CENTRAL FIRE STATION (#1)  
401 E. 5TH STREET  
AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO. TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE: 14Q UTM 1340720  
SUNSET VALLEY 4.7 MI.

ISBN 0-607-14824-2  
9 780607 498240

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with City of Austin  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field checked 1954. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1985. Field checked 1986. Map edited 1988  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic) 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14 1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 18 meters south and 28 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
3097-242

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

AUSTIN EAST, TEX.  
30097-C6-TF-024  
1988  
MILLER BLUEPRINT 60MA 6444 | SW-SERIES V882  
P.O. BOX 2088 78768 501 W. 6TH 78701  
AUSTIN, TEXAS PH. 512-478-9793  
1-800-252-3499 FAX 512-474-7099