

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

LISTED ON:  
VLR 9/22/2011  
NRHP 11/18/2011

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name City of Roanoke Fire Station No. 5

other names/site number VDHR 128-0054

### 2. Location

street & number 216 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW N/A not for publication

city or town Roanoke (Independent City) N/A vicinity

state Virginia code VA county \_\_\_\_\_ code 770 zip code 24017

### 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 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

September 29, 2011  
Date

Deputy Director  
Title

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

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

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Fire Station  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: charitable organization  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: concrete  
walls: brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: asphalt  
other: stone, wood  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

## **Narrative Description**

---

### **Summary Paragraph**

Fire Station No. 5 was constructed between in 1911 on a street-corner lot, in a predominately residential area three quarters of a mile northwest of downtown Roanoke. Designed by one of the leading architects in Roanoke, the brick building consists of a two-story, hip-roofed main block with a two-story hose-tower addition on the rear (west) elevation, and a one-story, hip-roofed colonnade across the front elevation and wrapping around to the side elevations. There are no secondary architectural resources or known archaeological deposits on the property.

---

## **Narrative Description**

Fire Station No. 5 is located on corner of 12th and Loudon streets, on the west side of 12th and south side of Loudon. The small lot is graded and covered with grass. A driveway enters at the back of the building off of Loudon Street, and the main driveway for fire vehicles enters in front, off of 12th Street. The building is a brick Colonial Revival-style, two-story, hip-roofed building that measures 44 feet deep by 30 feet wide, and resembles the American Four-square houses commonly found throughout the surrounding neighborhood and all of Roanoke's early-twentieth-century neighborhoods. Excellent integrity from the period of significance is found throughout the building. It has a three-bay façade with a garage door sheltered by a one-story, wrap-around colonnade that appears entirely unaltered, with ten wooden Doric columns, a shallow-pitch hip roof, and ceiling treated with two-inch unbeaded matchboard. The chosen version of the Doric Order appears to be based on that of the propylaea (west elevation) of the Acropolis (437-432 B.C.), the monumental gateway to the Athenian temple. The entablature is generally consistent with the propylaea's Doric Order, its frieze decorated by triglyphs with guttae, although in the case of the fire station they appear at less-frequent intervals, directly above each column. The building has a single chimney located in the southeast corner and a solid-brick belt course. There are twenty windows that appear to be original, with six-over-six double-hung sash, light-gray stone sills, and splayed brick jack arches with light-gray stone keystones. The main roofline is adorned with a modillion cornice. The roof has hipped dormers on the front and both side elevations, each with two window openings in front— one infilled with a louvered vent and the other an original fixed-sash, multi-light window with Roman-lattice muntins and painted glass panes. The rear of the building (west elevation) features a two-story, windowless hose tower (for hanging fire hoses to dry) and a partially-infilled garage bay that has been converted into a pedestrian entrance.

The building's interior comprises 2,600 square feet of floor area. The first-floor consists of a large common room with painted brick walls, a single-flight ascending staircase against the north wall, and a winding circular, metal basement stair in the southwest corner. The room features a highly decorative pressed-tin ceiling with Swiss Cross pattern, surrounded by a Greek-fret frieze, topped with an egg-and-dart molding and acanthus leaf cornice. Hanging from the ceiling are single globeless light fixtures set within floral medallions. The second floor contains a main room (sleeping quarters) with hardwood flooring and closets with multi-panel doors, a small kitchen on the north side, and a bathroom in the rear, all apparently in near original condition. The few embellishments include bead-board wainscoting in the kitchen and molded baseboards.

### **Integrity Statement**

A comparison of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century photographs with current images reveals that few exterior modifications have been made to the building since the building was completed in 1911. Most, if not all window sash appear to be original to the 1911 construction. The second-floor interior of the building was remodeled somewhat in the 1950s and 1970s, but the main components are well-preserved, such as doors, door and window trim, baseboards, and bead-board wainscoting. The area surrounding the fire station has changed somewhat, but

Fire Station No. 5

Name of Property

Roanoke, Virginia

County and State

houses built between 1900 and 1920 still predominate throughout the neighborhood. Some commercial and light industrial development is present, but is generally limited to the main traffic corridors that were once serviced by streetcars.

**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

See below

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

See below

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1911–1961

**Significant Dates**

1911

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

Miller, Homer M., architect

### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

City of Roanoke Fire Station No.5 is nominated under under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development for its association with the history of the Roanoke Fire Department, the introduction of motorized vehicles for fire protection in the early twentieth-century, and the City of Roanoke's peak period of immense growth. The building is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its place among the first fire stations in the region designed to conform with the residential architecture of an early twentieth-century suburb, yet is embellished with relatively sophisticated Classical features. Architect Homer Miller adapted the Doric Order of the colonnade from reconstructed renderings, first published in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, of the propylaea of the Acropolis. The Fire Station's period of significance, which spans from its construction in 1911 through 1961, encompasses 50 years of service to the Roanoke Fire Department.

---

### Narrative Statement of Significance

#### Architectural Context

It is well-documented that the City of Roanoke prospered greatly and experienced rapid growth during the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which the need for, and the revenues to fund several new fire stations around the city. Unlike other areas of southwestern Virginia, where the local economies never gained such momentum, Roanoke's municipal wealth of the period was evident in the sophisticated designs of its fire stations built between 1909 and 1929. Fire Station 3, which opened in 1909, is a handsome, modern, brick building with numerous Renaissance Revival details. Fire stations 4, 5 and 6, all constructed in 1911, were located in developing residential neighborhoods, and were smartly designed to look compatible among the houses, yet were extensively embellished with authentic classical motifs. A new Fire Station No. 1 was built downtown in 1912, with a noteworthy façade and bell tower that have been described as "richly embellished in the English Renaissance style of Sir Christopher Wren."<sup>1</sup> Fire Station 7 was built in 1922 with fashionable eclectic, Craftsman- inspired details. Fire stations 8 and 9, both built in 1929, were elaborate designs in the Old English and Italian Renaissance Revival styles, respectively. Of the eight fire stations built between 1909 and 1929, only No. 4 has been demolished. Each of the others stands intact and essentially unaltered. After 1930, new fire stations constructed in Roanoke were designed with an emphasis on practicality, a trend that has continued steadily since then. In contrast to those built before 1930, none of the newer stations could be considered architectural works of distinction.

#### The Architect

Homer M. Miller (1879—1959), a native of Rockingham County, Virginia, began his architectural practice in Roanoke about 1906, with three large commissions in Roanoke that year, including the lavish Max Goldberg Hotel. During his a prolific career, he designed a wide variety of buildings, including a number of landmark churches. In 1917, Miller partnered with local architect, Herbert L. Cain, to design the Gothic-Revival-style Belmont Methodist-Episcopal Church in Southeast Roanoke, and again in 1922, to design the Calvary Baptist Church, an imposing Classical Revival building located at Campbell Avenue and Sixth Street near downtown Roanoke. Miller retired from practice in 1952.<sup>2</sup>

#### Historic Background

Roanoke's Fire Department was first organized by concerned citizens, specifically the employees of the Norfolk & Western Railroad and downtown businessmen, when the city was founded in 1882. The fully un-paid volunteer organization with forty members began to function in 1883 with horse-drawn equipment. The department hired the first paid firefighters in 1906, with the establishment of the first Fire Station No.1 on Church Street. The city was then small enough that most fires could be spotted from the bell tower, but rapid growth brought the establishment of five new fire stations in more residential locations peripheral to downtown.

These included Firestation No. 4 on Highland Avenue, SW; Fire Station No. 5 at Loudon and 12<sup>th</sup> streets, NW, and the well-documented Fire Station No. 6 on Jamison Avenue, SW (VDHR 128-0051, NRHP 1991).<sup>3</sup>

Fire stations 4, 5 and 6 were each designed by prolific local architect Homer M. Miller (1879-1959) and constructed in 1911.<sup>4</sup> All three new stations opened on September 5, 1911.<sup>5</sup> The buildings were virtually identical, their house-like designs reflecting public concerns that new firehouses be architecturally compatible with neighboring houses. However, the three new buildings featured relatively sophisticated classical architectural elements, such as Doric colonnades, jack-arched window and door apertures with pronounced, gray colored keystones, soldier-brick belt courses, and main roof cornices with modillions. To equip the new stations, the city purchased its first engine-powered fire trucks: three Seagrave pumpers, each with a 75-horse-power engine.<sup>6</sup> According to Roanoke historian Raymond Barnes, “Roanoke was now placed in the front ranks of Virginia for fire protection.”<sup>7</sup>

Station No. 4 was demolished many years ago. Station No. 6 closed in 1979, but Station No. 5 continued to operate until June 22, 2010, when department personnel were transferred to the new Station No. 5, a \$6 million-plus facility completed in 2009 on the south side of downtown. In August, 2010, the city granted the former Station 5 building to Que House, Inc., a locally-based non-profit charitable organization, so that the building may continue to serve the community. Que House was founded, and is operated by the Gamma Alpha Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

## Notes

1. “Fire Station No. 1” National Register nomination, Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks, 1972.
2. Wells and Dalton, 297-300. Miller’s Goldberg Hotel no longer stands, but both the Belmont and Calvary churches remain extant.
3. *The Roanoke Times* 2/4/1911, as cited by Laura Guilliams in “Firestation No. 6” National Register nomination, 1990.
4. Guilliams, 8. The Fire Station No. 5 parcel was acquired from the estate of John C. Wright in 1909. City of Roanoke Deed Book 206, page 317.
5. Barnes, *A History of the City of Roanoke*. Radford Virginia: Commonwealth Press, 1968, 488.
6. The last of the horse-drawn fire wagons was retired from service in 1918. City of Roanoke Fire Department webpage, [www.roanokeva.gov](http://www.roanokeva.gov)
7. Barnes, 488.

## **9. Major Bibliographic References:**

Barnes, Raymond P. *A History of the City of Roanoke*. Radford, Virginia: Commonwealth Press, 1968.

City of Roanoke Deed Book 206, page 317; copy found in city real estate records.

Fleitz, Rhett. *Images of America: Firefighting in Roanoke*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2006, 35-36.

Guilliams, Laura. “Firestation No. 6” National Register nomination, 1990.

Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks “Fire Station No. 1” National Register nomination, 1972.

Wells, John and Robert Dalton, *The Virginia Architects 1835 –1955*. Richmond: 1997, 297-300.

Fire Station No. 5  
Name of Property

Roanoke, Virginia  
County and State

## 9. Major Bibliographical 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 128-6271

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** .30  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>592273</u> Easting	<u>4126128</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing	4	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated parcel boundary fully encompasses, and is limited to Roanoke city tax parcel 2212317. The boundary is identified on the accompanying aerial image/site map.

### Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nominated parcel boundary includes only the fire station and the lot (tax parcel 2212317) on which it stands.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pulice  
organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources date July 10, 2011  
street & number 962 Kime Lane telephone 540-387-5443  
city or town Salem state VA zip code 24153  
e-mail michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:



- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Fire Station No. 5

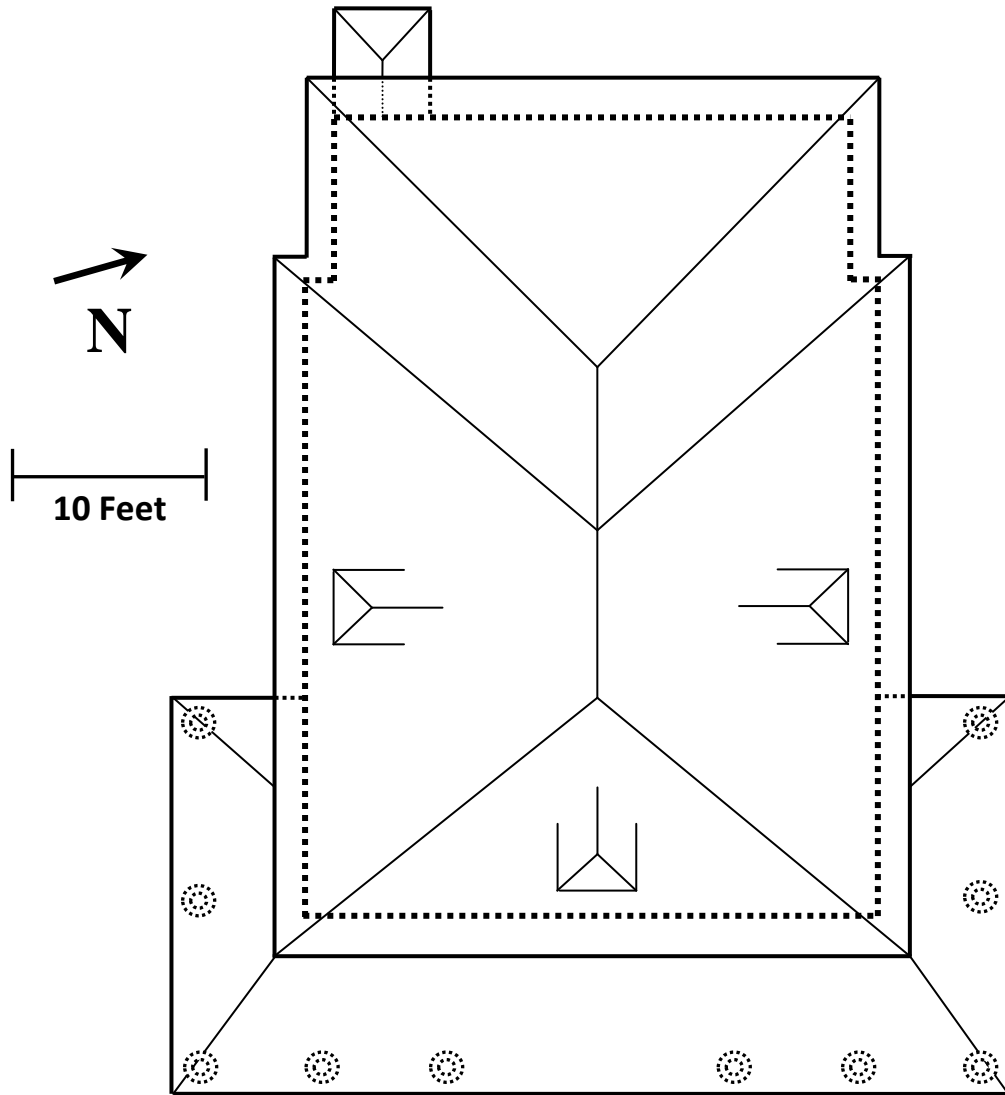
**City or Vicinity:** City of Roanoke, Virginia

**Photographer:** Michael J. Pulice

**Date Photographed:** January 25, 2011

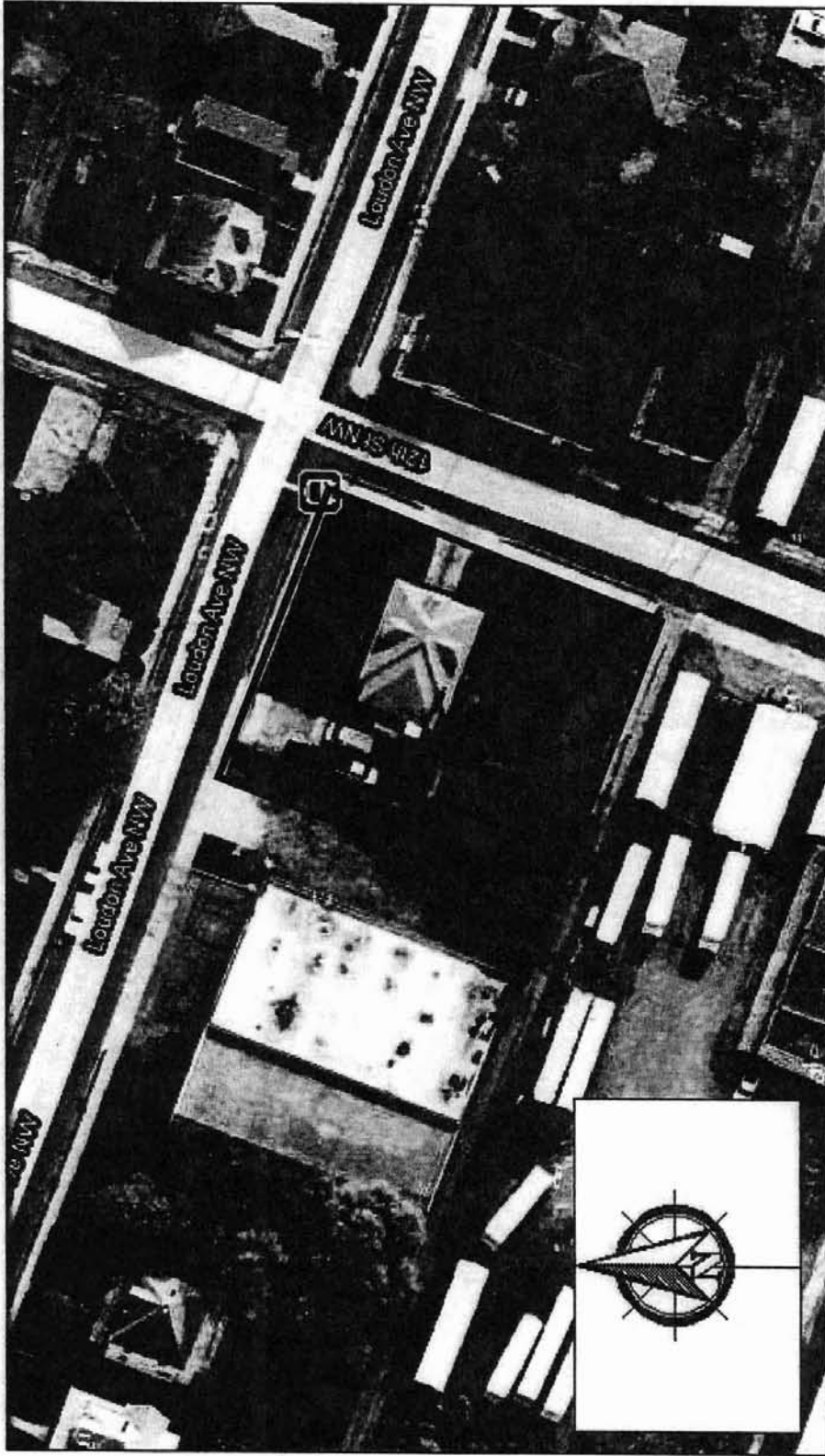
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- 1 of 8. Exterior view, facing northwest.
- 2 of 8. Exterior view, facing southwest.
- 3 of 8. Exterior view, facing southeast.
- 4 of 8. Exterior view, north (side) elevation.
- 5 of 8. Interior view, first floor, facing northwest
- 6 of 8. Interior view, first floor ceiling
- 7 of 8. Interior view, first floor ceiling, detail
- 8 of 8. Interior view, second floor, southeast room



# Fire Station No. 5 Roanoke, Virginia

Drawing by M. Pulice, July 2011



**Fire Station No.5, City of Roanoke**  
**VDHR ID 128-0054**  
**July 2011**



4129 CHRISTIANSBURG 28 MI. SALEM P.O. 3.2 MI. 17'30" 4127 SALEM 3.6 MI. 4126

Fire Station No. 5  
Roanoke, VA  
DIR# 129-0054  
17/592273/4126128  
Roanoke Quad



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

September 27, 2011

Douglas W. Domenech  
*Secretary of Natural Resources*

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick  
*Director*

Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391  
TDD: (804) 367-2386  
[www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov)

Que House Inc.  
P.O. Box 11663  
Roanoke, VA 24022

### Re: Fire Station No. 5, City of Roanoke

Dear Property Owner:

On Behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Board of Historic Resources has placed **Fire Station No. 5** in the Virginia Landmarks Register. The State Review Board also recommended this property for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Following final staff review, we will forward the nomination to the National Park Service, including my recommendation, along with the Board's, that the resource is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Virginia Landmarks Register includes historic landmarks, buildings, structures, districts, objects, and sites which are recognized as having historical, architectural, or archaeological significance at a local, state, or national level. **Fire Station No. 5** deserves this official recognition as one of the Commonwealth's historic resources. The responsibility for preserving Virginia's irreplaceable historic resources rests ultimately with interested citizens like you. While registration does not in itself protect the property, we hope this formal recognition will provide encouragement to your continuing efforts to preserve this important part of Virginia's history.

The continuing protection and preservation of registered Virginia landmarks is of immediate concern to this office. We welcome the opportunity to serve, and it is our hope that you will inform us if we can be of assistance to you in providing any technical advice on contemplated alterations or sensitive renovations to properties.

Sincerely,

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick  
Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

### Enclosures

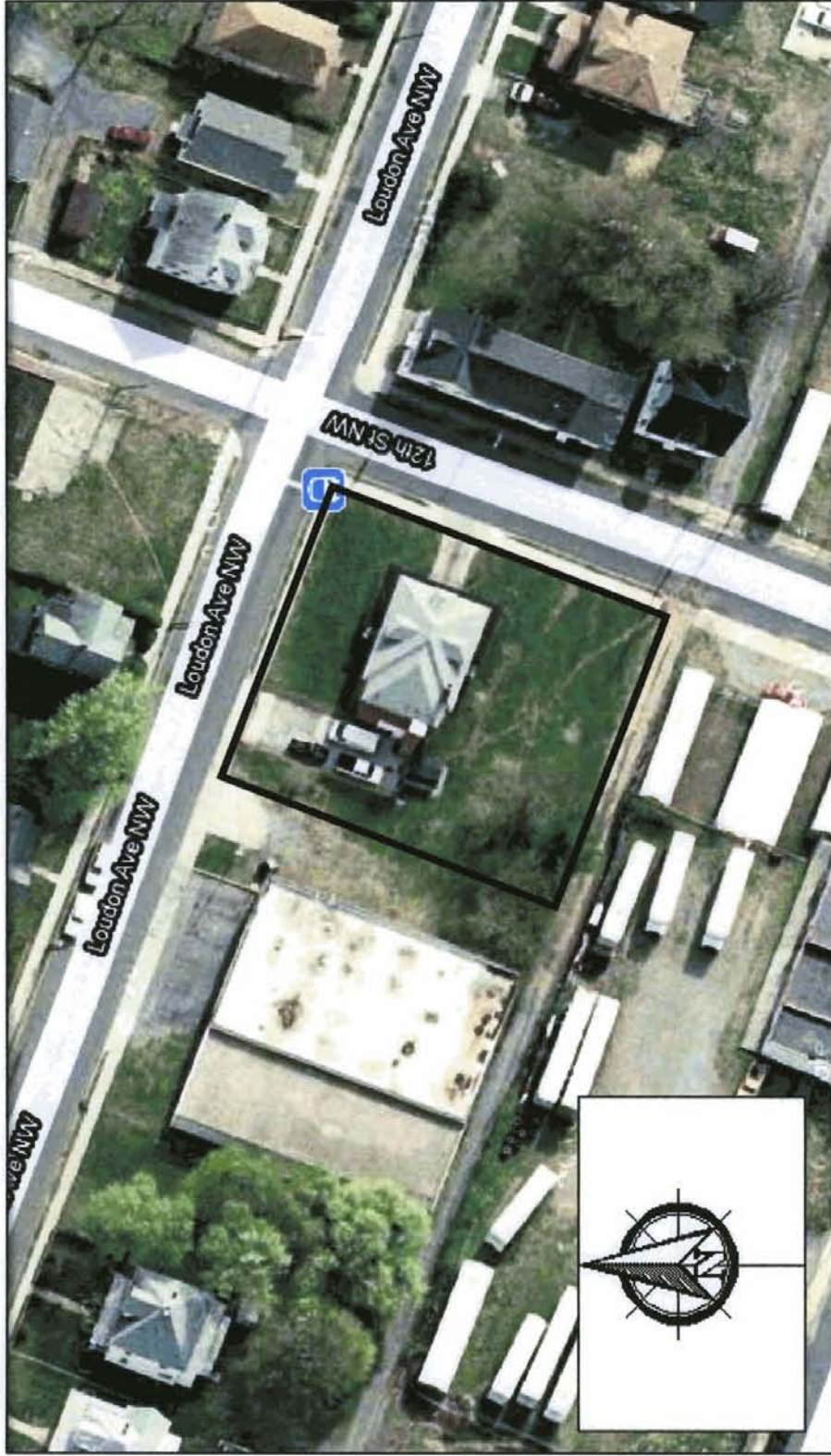
Administrative Services  
10 Courthouse Ave.  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
Tel: (804) 862-6416  
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office  
2801 Kensington Office  
Richmond, VA 23321  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office  
14415 Old Courthouse Way 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Floor  
Newport News, VA 23608  
Tel: (757) 886-2807  
Fax: (757) 886-2808

Western Region Office  
Hundley Hall  
962 Kime Lane  
Salem, VA 24153  
Tel: (540) 387-5428  
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office  
5357 Main Street  
PO Box 519  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
Tel: (540) 868-7031  
Fax: (540) 868-7033



**Fire Station No.5, City of Roanoke**  
**VDHR ID 128-0054**  
**July 2011**