

**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 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 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 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 Station #14

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 3401 South Central Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Los Angeles N/A vicinity

state California code CA county Los Angeles code 037 zip code 90011

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

California Office of Historic Preservation
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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Fire Station #14
Name of Property _____

Los Angeles, CA
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(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
_____		sites
_____		structures
_____		objects
1		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Resources Associated with African Americans in Los Angeles _____

0 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT – Fire Station _____

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT – Fire Station _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENTS – International Style _____

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete _____
roof Synthetic _____
walls Stucco, Concrete _____

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Fire Station #14
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

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 a 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage - Black

Period of Significance

1949 - 1956

Significant Dates

1949 – Building Constructed

1956 – Fire Department Integrated

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Heitschmidt, Earl T., architect

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository:

Fire Station #14
Name of Property

Los Angeles, CA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	—	_____	_____	3	—	_____	_____
2	—	_____	_____	4	—	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Assessor Parcel Number 5114-015-901, which corresponds to the attached map.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) The legal lot the building historically and currently occupies.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Teresa Grimes

organization Christopher A. Joseph & Associates date 6/01/08

street & number 523 W. 6th Street, Suite 1134 telephone (213) 417-4400

city or town Los Angeles state CA zip code 90014

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Los Angeles

street & number 111 E. First Street, Suite #201 telephone _____

city or town Los Angeles state CA zip code 90012

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Fire Station #14
Los Angeles, California

DESCRIPTION

Fire Station #14 is located at the northwest corner of South Central Avenue and East 34rd Street in the City of Los Angeles. The International Style reinforced concrete building varies in height from one to three stories. A concrete block wall surrounds a lot associated with the building on the north side. On the south elevation, newly installed landscaping screens the building from the neighboring property. The building retains all aspects of integrity.

The building is generally rectangular in shape and is composed of a series of one-, two-, and three-story volumes. The street-facing (east) elevation has a balanced, asymmetrical composition with a one-story volume containing the pedestrian entrance and a two-story volume for the fire truck entrance. A red brick veneer connects the two volumes visually. The pedestrian entrance is situated in a three-part metal frame assemblage that creates a strong graphic effect. A metal slab door is set in the south end. Above are two hopper-style windows. To the south are four hopper-style windows stacked vertically in each of the two remaining sections. Dividing the two-story volume between the first and second stories is a shallow, linear canopy. Perched on the edge of the canopy are individual metal letters in a modern font spelling out "Fire Station No. 14" in capital letters. The first story has two, non-original, roll-up style fire truck doors. On the second story the concrete is scored into a grid pattern with a ribbon of windows centered in the grid.

The north elevation is a flat plane with one-over-one, double-hung, steel sash windows. The windows are evenly distributed with some set individually and some grouped into fours. At the northwest corner, a blank three-story volume houses the hose tower. A flat roof with overhanging eaves caps the tower. On all four sides, just below the eaves are three vents with vertical slats.

The south elevation steps up from one story to two stories with window types that include one-over-one, double-hung sash as well as casements.

The only apparent exterior alteration is the replacement of the fire truck doors. The concrete block wall along the lot on the north side of the building is of no consequence to the integrity as it is easily reversible. The building permit records indicate demolition of a one-story salvage, drying, and oil room that stood at the rear of the building and corrections to the parapets.

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Fire Station #14
Los Angeles, California

SIGNIFICANCE

Fire Station #14 is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A as it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. It meets the registration requirements for fire stations outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) Form for Historic Resources Associated with African Americans in Los Angeles. It is significant at the local level in the context of civic engagement. Constructed in 1949, Fire Station#14 is significant as one of two segregated fire stations in Los Angeles.

All-black fire stations were simultaneous representations of racial segregation and sources of community pride. The first African American member of the LAFD, Sam Haskins, was hired in 1888. Born a slave in Virginia, he was assigned to Engine Company #4. He died in the line of duty in 1895. George Bright became the second black fireman in Los Angeles when he was hired in 1897. By 1902, he had attained the rank of lieutenant and the department was faced with a dilemma – segregate crews or allow a black man to supervise white men. In 1924, the department decided to assign all of the black firefighters in the city to Fire Station #30 under Bright’s supervision.

As more blacks joined the department, Fire Station #30 became crowded. The department's wrecker (heavy rescue) was assigned to Fire Station #30, simply because there was insufficient riding room for all the firemen on the engines and truck. Another station was needed. In 1936, Fire Station #14 was opened to black firemen creating two additional captain and engineer positions along with ten additional firemen positions. This, of course, meant that the white firemen were removed from the station. Angry, the white firemen trashed the station with garbage and fecal matter. The Battalion Chief ordered them back to clean up their mess. In 1949, a new Fire Station #14 was opened next to the old one, which was demolished.

Civil service regulations were regularly violated to maintain the segregated system and retain captain as the highest rank open to African Americans. By 1953, the NAACP was pressing for equality in hiring, transfers, and promotions in LAFD. An alternative put forth to integration was to convert Fire Stations #20 and #21 to all-black companies to open up promotional opportunities. The idea, however, was rejected in favor of full integration. African American members of the Los Angeles County and City Fire Departments founded the Stentorians organization in 1954. Their purpose was to band together to address discrimination. In 1956, all the fire stations were finally integrated, but not without conflict.

Although Fire Station #14 is not being nominated under Criterion C, it is important to note that it was designed by architect Earl T. Heitschmidt who worked extensively in southern California. Born in Portland, Oregon in 1894. Heitschmidt was educated at the University of Oregon and MIT. He worked

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Fire Station #14
Los Angeles, California

at various architecture firms in Portland, Boston, and New York before opening his own practice in Los Angeles in 1930. When Heitschmidt was an associate with the New York firm of Schultz & Weaver, the firm designed the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel. Some of his more distinguished works include the Wrigley Mansion in Phoenix (1929-30), Columbia Square with William Lescaze (1937), Wrigley Field (1938), Park La Brea (1941-49), General Motors Training Center in Burbank (1953), Los Angeles Furniture Mart (1955), and Harvey Mudd College Master Plan in Claremont (1956).

REFERENCES

Building Permits

Sanborn Map, 1950, vol. 4

African American Firefighters Museum, www.aaffmuseum.org

Los Angeles Fire Department Historical Archive, www.lafire.com

Flamming, Douglas. *Bound for Freedom: Black Los Angeles in Jim Crow America*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005. 77, 376.

Sides, Josh. *L.A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003, p. 148-49.

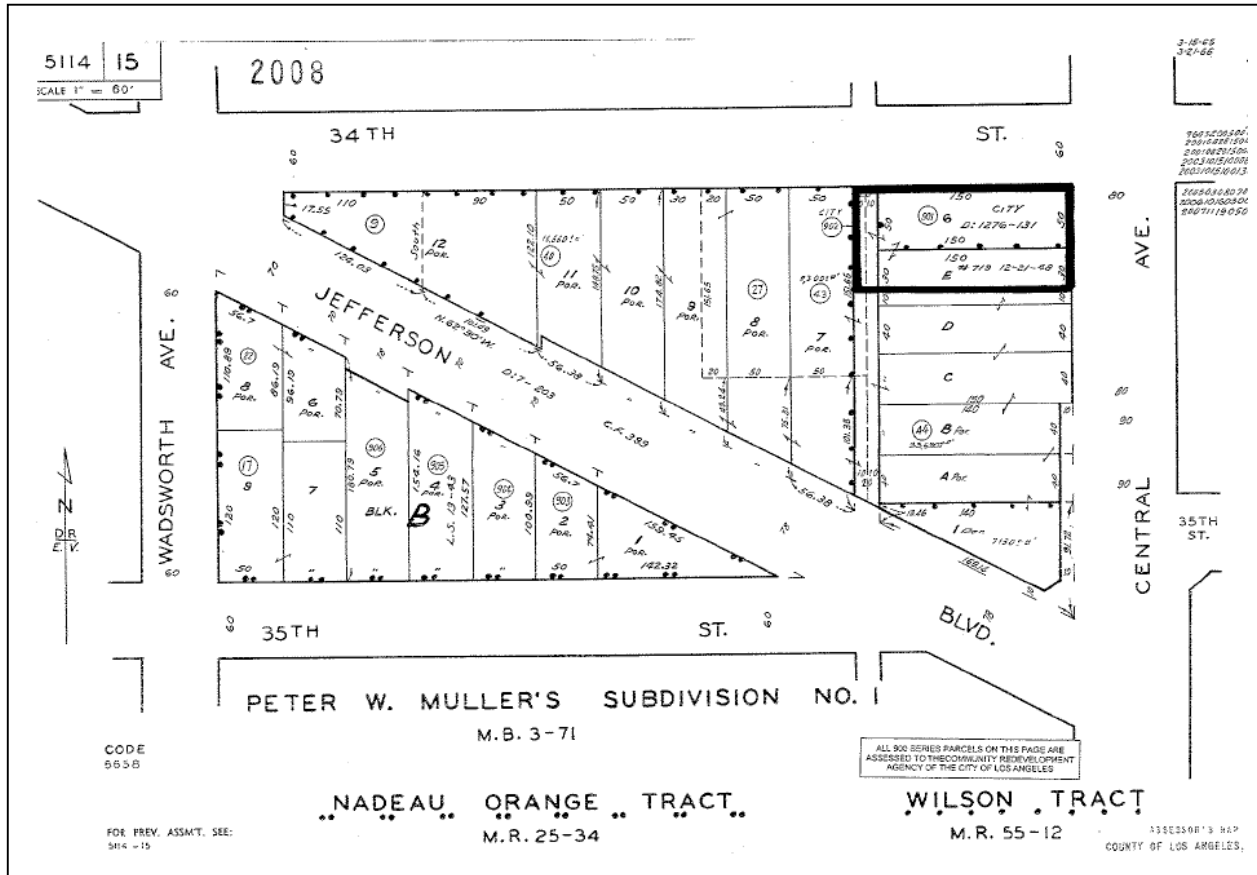
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Fire Station #14
Los Angeles, California

SKETCH MAP



Property boundary outlined in bold
Source: Los Angeles County Tax Assessor