## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

32-2585

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 an 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.

Name of Property		
historic name <u>Scokane</u> Fire Stat	100 No. 3	
historic name		
other names/site number		
2 Location		
street & number N. 1229 Monroe		i_ not for publication
ity or town <u>Spokane</u>	<u> </u>	
tate <u>WA</u> code <u>W</u>	A county Spokane	code 063 zip code 99208
. State/Federal Agency Certification		
in my opinion, the property imeets does does comments)	ster criteria. I recommend that this proper continuation sheet for additional comme in the last of the	enty be considered significant
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
. National Park Service Certification	·	
nereby certify that the property is	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
entered in the National Register  See continuation sneet		
<ul> <li>determined eligible for the</li> <li>National Register</li> <li>See continuation sheet</li> </ul>		
determined not eligible for the National Register		
removed from the National Register		
other, (explain)		

Spo	kar	ne.	County	. W	
ounty					

5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within (Do not include previously listed resou	Property rces in the count )	
🖰 private	building(s)	Contributing Noncontrib	uting	
☐ public-local	☐ district	11	buildings	
☐ public-State	□ site			
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure ☐ object			
-		1		
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resount the National Register	irces previously liste	
N/A		0		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		
GOVERNMENT: fire	station	COMMERCE/TRADE: business		
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)	<del></del>	
Commercial style		foundation <u>Concrete</u>		
		walls Brick		
		roof Tar		
		other		

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

(See continuation)

Record # \_\_\_\_\_

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 SHPO or FPO)	The section of the se				
name					
street & number	telephone				
city or town	state zip code				

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 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Spokane Fire Station No. 3 Spokane County, WA

## 7. Narrative Description

Spokane Fire Station No. 3, as it exists today, is actually two buildings, each built at a diffent time and later joined together to form a single unit. The rear, or west, section was built, in 1912, to the rear of what was at the time Fire Station No. 3, a wood-frame affair that had been erected in 1894, and which would be rebuilt as a brick structure in around 1917 adjoining, building was originally intended to serve as a shop where vehicles and other fire fighting equipment could be built and repaired. No old pictures of this building have been found, but the exterior appearance has most likely undergone little change during the intervening years. At present, it is a red brick, two-story commercial style building. The foundation is concrete and the roof is flat, sealed with built up tar. The first floor originally contained an automotive machine shop; the second floor was a paint and carpentry shop. Secondary elevations of the south and west sides have narrow, segmentally-arched, double-hung wooden windows. The east side originally abutted the then existing wood-frame station. Later, this wall would be covered by subsequent construction of the new brick Fire Station No. 3. The front, or north, facade features a cornice of simple brick corbeling. This facade also contains two large windows on the second floor, each divided into three main sections. Both windows had segmental arches with ornamental concrete keystones. Aligned under each window was a large bay entry with folding glass doors and transom

Several years after the above described shop building was built, probably in 1917, the present brick Fire Station No. 3 replaced the old wooden structure. Like the adjacent structure, to which it would later by joined, this building's exterior has probably changed very little from its original appearance. Like its neighbor, it is a red brick commercial structure, with a concrete foundation and a flat tar roof. The short cupola on the south side of the roof topped an interior hose drying tower. A Libby photograph, dated 1922, reveals that the facade of this two-story building has hardly changed at all. The brick corbeling of the cornice matches that of the machine shop, for the two structures are adjoined. Below the cornice is a stringcourse of light-colored brick. This same brick is used in decorative quoins at the building's corners. There are five double hung wooden windows on the second floor, each with labels of light colored brick. Two of the three bay entries are the same size as the original. The central entry has, at some point in the past, been raised several feet. The present folding glass doors probably replaced what were originally swinging doors. The north side of the building contains windows with labels, identical to those in front. Two of these windows have been, in the past, partially bricked in for some forgotten reason. Below the cornice the light brick stringcourse continues up to a point where it meets the machine

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Spokane Fire Station No. 3 Spokane County, WA

#### 7. Narrative Description (Continued)

shop. The line where the buildings were joined is clearly visible. The Sanborn Map of 1936 shows that these buildings were still separate at that time. A number of years ago, however the walls between the two buildings were removed, creating one large building. The result was a roomy rectangular structure, approximately 50 feet by 90 feet, possessing similar design features which allow the building to stand as a homogenous entity.

The interior of Fire Station No. 3, despite its renovation to allow modern business activities, retains many of the features reminiscent of its former purpose. The openness of the vehicle bays and the large second floor dormitory remain, thanks to the use of room dividers instead of full walls Fireman constructed wooden cabinets have been preserved as has one of the two original brass poles and two of the circular drop-away doors. The shop section continues to be used as a workshop and storage area, and retains much of its original appearance. Compliance with various municipal codes has necessitated minor changes to the exterior. Two windows were bricked in on the nearly hidden south side, where other windows had previously been blocked. Additionally, a first floor window of the west side was converted to a door to provide an emergency rear exit. These slight changes detract little from the original appearance. These qualities remain almost untouched, especially on the prominent east and north facades. This building is still in good physical shape. Considering its architectural and historical integrity, it is worthy of consideration as a National Register property.

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Spokane Fire Station No. 3 Spokane County, WA

### 8. Statement of Significance

Fire Station No. 3 is significant for its role in the history of fire protection in the city of Spokane Although the present building was erected after 1912, the station has its roots in the earliest days of the volunteer department, which was disbanded in 1889. The history of Fire Station No. 3, and that of firefighting in Spokane, is meaningful, not just on a local level, but also for its role concerning experiences and changes that were common to developing towns and cities throughout the American West.

#### **Spokane Fire Department History:**

The story of organized firefighting in Spokane began with the formation of the Spokane Volunteer Fire Department. Composed of two companies, each with a hose cart, this volunteer effort commenced in the Fall of 1884, when Spokane was a dangerous hodgepodge of unregulated wood or brick structures. The volunteers were mostly local businessmen who had a personal interest in protecting their investments from fire. Early Chief Engineers included leading citizens such as Frank Dallam, editor of the *Spokane Falls Review*, which would eventually become the *Spokesman-Review*. Chief Eugene B. Hyde was a member of a prominent local family and also served as the town's first police officer. Horace L. Cutter, elected Chief in 1885, was a banker whose nephew, Kirtland Cutter, became Spokane's best known architect.

Aside from being businessmen, volunteer firemen had to be athletes. The 1345-pound hose carts were hand-pulled by a twelve-man team. Much pride was taken in sprinting to the scene of the fire, coupling the hoses to the hydrant, and producing water in as short a time as possible. Many practice drills were required to become proficient at these tasks, and from this evolved competitive races which became a major source of pride and entertainment during the 1880s. Spokane and other Northwest communities competed against each other in tournaments which were occasions for gala celebrations.

The Spokane Volunteer Fire Department would grow to include four companies by 1889. Nevertheless, despite their popularity, the days of the volunteer fireman were soon numbered. The hand-pulled hose cart was becoming obsolete as the towns of the American West grew larger and more unwieldy. In Spokane demand began to grow for modern equipment, including the new coal-fired steam engines which could direct a larger and steadier flow of water. These heavy machines required horses to pull them. In turn, the machines and the horses required daily care. This meant that full-time firemen had to be hired, and large fire stations had to be built to house the men, equipment and horses. Only the City of Spokane could accomplish all this, but the pleas of concerned citizens fell on deaf ears - until August 4, 1889, when most of the business district burned to the ground.

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Spokane Fire Station No. 3 Spokane County, WA

## 8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

Shocked into action, the city council bought new equipment and passed an ordinance on December 18, 1889, creating a paid force of twenty-five men with an annual budget of \$33,000. On New Year's Day of 1890, Fire Station No. 1 was dedicated, and former volunteer E. P. Gillette became the first paid Chief Engineer of the regular Spokane Fire Department. On May 1, 1890, the Spokane City Council named veteran firefighter Frank G. Winebrenner as Chief Engineer. Under his leadership, and that of his successor, A. H. "Harry" Myers, the Spokane Fire Department thrived and expanded.

These years (1890-1912) were the era of the horse-drawn steam engine, considered by many to be the "golden age" of firefighting. Even today there are those who can imagine a vivid picture of the excitement initiated by the sounding of the firehouse alarm, followed by men jumping into their shirts and britches before whirling down the polished brass pole. The harnesses dropped onto the horses as the fire started in the steamer. The dash to the fire was a blur of hooves, sparks and smoke.

The change from the volunteer to the paid department created a new type of fireman. The businessman with other obligations was replaced by the blue collar tradesman with time on his hands. The new recruits possessed a multiplicity of skills which allowed them to obtain a reputation for know-how and self-reliance. Since they lived in the firehouse six days a week, they sought ways to pass the boring hours not spent making runs and caring for the horses. A. H. "Harry" Myers took advantage of the situation and, during his fourteen-year career as Chief, the firemen themselves built seven new fire stations for the City of Spokane. These unique wood-frame buildings were specifically designed to meet the needs of horse-drawn firefighting, and at the same time harmonize tastefully with their residential surroundings. Most were built according to a similar plan, featuring gambrel roofs, dormers and cupolas. Yet each one was entirely unique in design details such as window shape, cladding and ornamentation. Each incorporated a different geometric pattern in its window panes. Despite the architectural and aesthetic superiority of these buildings, all were razed by 1960 in the rush to modernize.

When A. H. Myers was replaced in 1912, by Albert L. "Boomer" Weeks, the Spokane Fire Department was in the midst of momentous change. The internal combustion gasoline engine was transforming the world as the age of the automobile dawned. One by one the trusty horses were retired, soon followed by the steam engines they once pulled. The horses were gone by 1916. One old steamer limped along until 1935. But one man who did not mourn the passing of an age

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Spokane Fire Station No. 3 Spokane County, WA

## 8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

was the new Chief, "Boomer" Weeks. A tinkerer at heart, Weeks convinced the City commissioners to build a shop where firemen would build their own fire trucks. Practically constructed, using interchangeable parts, they were designed by Chief Weeks himself.

Before Albert L Weeks retired in 1928, another great change occurred in the Spokane Fire Department. In that year a new double platoon system was adopted which allowed firemen more free time to spend with their families. Later would come the triple platoon system which would result in the modern fifty-six hour work week. As a result, today's fireman can lead a nearly normal life. This has resulted in the diminishment of the comradery that marked the Department's formative years. But a certain pride and sense of tradition still survives within many of the current members. Interest in reclaiming the history of the Spokane Fire Department is on the rise, both within the department and the community at large

#### Spokane Fire Station No. 3:

The original Fire Station No. 3 was built in 1889, located at the corner of Broadway and Madison. The regular Spokane Fire Department was just being organized, and for a short time the firemen stationed at No. 3 remained volunteers. Going by the name of Washington Hose Company, they would soon become Spokane's third company of regular firefighters. Early photographs reveal a wood frame, front-gabled 2 1/2-story structure with a two-story shed addition to one side. Access was provided by three large bay entries, two in the main building and another in the addition Above the gable peak of the front facade was a large bell tower containing a 2,500-pound bell.

In 1894, it became necessary to remove Fire Station No. 3, due to construction of the present Spokane County Courthouse. Northside citizens were fearful of the impending lack of fire protection, so the City determined to move the whole building to a new location at Sharp and Monroe. This effort apparently failed, however, as later photos show an entirely different building on the new site. Available photographs indicate that this was a 50x50 two-story wood frame structure with a flat roof. The cladding consisted of clapboard highlighted with dark wood trim. There were three bay entries on the front, or east, facade, which was surmounted by an ornamental parapet with a large central pediment. Seven large rectangular windows, in sets of two and three, looked out from the second story.

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Spokane Fire Station No. 3 Spokane County, WA

## 8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

1912 was a year of significant change in the Spokane Fire Department, and Fire Station No. 3 would play a prominent part in the new scheme of things. 1912 was the year that Chief Harry Myers, who had led the department through the horse and steamer years, was removed from office, the victim of political intrigue. His successor, Albert L "Boomer" Weeks, would lead the department into the age of the gasoline engine, which was about to transform the profession Boomer Weeks was a tinkerer who designed and built his own power boats. Soon after becoming Chief Engineer, he convinced the Spokane city commissioners that the Fire Department could save money by building its own vehicles. In 1912, with the City's blessing, Chief Weeks had a machine and paint shop constructed behind the old wood-frame Spokane Fire Station No 3 This brick building would later be adjoined by a new brick Fire Station No. 3, and it is these two structures togther which today make up historic Fire Station No. 3. Boomer Weeks proceeded to guide the Spokane Fire Department into the twentieth century, completely refurbishing the fireman and his equipment. The machine shop was used to build a new fleet of firetrucks, or autotrucks as they were originally called. Each vehicle built there was designed by Weeks himself. As much as possible, parts were standardized so as to be interchangeable. While the City provided such things as motors and wheels, the firemen made frames, bodies, and numerous other items, then assembled the finished product. They could build one of these vehicles, which included chemical engines and hook and ladder trucks, in three weeks. As usual, they did this work on their regular time, working between fires and other duties. By 1914, half of the department's sixteen autotrucks were homemade, and the City of Spokane had saved twenty thousand dollars.

By 1916, horses were no longer used by the Spokane Fire Department, a trend reflected across the country. The bustling machine shop behind wood-frame Fire Station No. 3 stood in sharp contrast to the old facility with its horse stalls and coal bins. Hence, The old station was replaced, probably in 1917, by a facility which was designed to satisfy the needs of the modernized department Elements of earlier times were retained, however, placing Fire Station No. 3 in a transitional category. The bays remained large, even though the less bulky fire trucks required less space than the old steamers. Most contemporary stations had small bays, a trend that continued until the advent of large fire rigs in 1940s and 1950s. Additionally, Fire Station No. 3 still provided a large kitchen and sleeping/recreation area for the men, who still spent most of their time on duty. Not until 1928, with the adoption of a double platoon system, would dormitories become obsolete.

By the time Boomer Weeks retired, in 1928, the Spokane Fire Department had been transformed. But soon after this, expansion and growth ended, as the Great Depression swept across the country. Like other municipal services, the Spokane Fire Department hunkered down and just tried

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Spokane Fire Station No. 3 Spokane County, WA

8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

to survive. In a cost-cutting consolidation move, several stations were closed down or sold. Fire Station No 3 made the cut, but trucks were no longer built in the machine shop. At some point it was decided to join the shop to the adjacent station, making it one of the largest such facilities in town. With its large bays, it proved adequate for the increasingly larger equipment introduced in the 1950s and 1960s. But as firefighting continued to evolve, as it always will, inevitable inadequacies were revealed, not just at Fire Station No. 3, but at stations all over Spokane. As a result, a number of the city's stations were closed and put up for sale. Spacious brick facilities have since been erected, leaving a number of historically significant buildings in the hands of private interests. The most notable of these are Spokane Fire Station No. 9, which has been included in the Ninth Avenue Historic District, and Spokane Fire Station No. 3, which is just as worthy of protection, especially considering its pivotal role in the transition from a horse drawn to a motorized force.

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Spokane Fire Static Spokane County, \			

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Emerson, Stephen B., *The Spokane Fire Department*, Master of Arts thesis, Eastern Washington University, 1991.

The Spokesman-Review and The Spokane Daily Chronicle.

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Spokane Fire Station No. 3 Spokane County, WA	

# Verbal Boundary Description

10. Geographical Data

STRATTONS ADD EXC S8IN L1 B33&PTN OF NW1/4 SEC18-2 5-43 DAF;&BEG NWCOR L1 TH W.37FT TH SLY TO A PT ON W LN L1 21FT S OF NWCOR THE N TO POB FIRE STATION

## **Boundary Justification**

Boundary of this property, Spokane Fire Station No 9, corresponds to the legal description, as stated above, which is on file at the Spokane County Courthouse

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Spokane Fire Station No. 3 Spokane County, WA

### 11. Photographs

- Spokane Fire Station No. 3
   Spokane County, WA
   Stephen Emerson
   Aug. 1992
   N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
   East facade, looking west
- Spokane Fire Station No. 3
   Spokane County, WA
   Stephen Emerson
   Aug. 1992
   N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
   East facade, looking west
- Spokane Fire Station No 3
   Spokane County, WA
   Stephen Emerson
   Aug. 1992
   N. 6723 Winston Dr , Spokane, WA
   North elevation, looking southwest
- Spokane Fire Station No 3
   Spokane County, WA
   Stephen Emerson
   Aug. 1992
   N 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
   North elevation, rear bay entries, old shop building facade, looking south.
- Spokane Fire Station No. 3
   Spokane County, WA
   Stephen Emerson
   Aug 1992
   N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
   South and west elevations, rear of building, looking northeast

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Spokane Fire Station No. 3 Spokane County, WA

### 11. Photographs (Continued)

- Spokane Fire Station No. 3
   Spokane County, WA
   Stephen Emerson
   Aug 1992
   N 6723 Winston Dr , Spokane, WA
   Detail featuring the point where the fire station was adjoined to the shop, looking south.
- Spokane Fire Station No. 3
   Spokane County, WA
   Stephen Emerson
   Aug. 1992
   N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
   Detail featuring partially filled in windows on north elevation, looking southeast.
- Spokane Fire Station No. 3
   Spokane County, WA
   Stephen Emerson
   Aug. 1992
   N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
   View of main equipment bay showing brass pole and drop-away doors, taken from front entry, facing southwest.
- Spokane Fire Station No. 3
   Spokane County, WA
   Stephen Emerson
   Jan. 1994
   N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
   North elevation, facing west

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### 11. Photographs (Continued)

- Spokane Fire Station No. 3
  Spokane County, WA
  Stephen Emerson
  Jan 1994
  N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
  East facade, facing northwest
- Spokane Fire Station No. 3
  Spokane County, WA
  Stephen Emerson
  Jan. 1994
  N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
  South elevation, facing east, showing filled in rear windows
- 12. Spokane Fire Station No 3Spokane County, WAStephen EmersonJan. 1994N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA

Detail of west elevation, showing rear window converted to emergency exit

13. Spokane Fire Station No 3
Spokane County, WA
Stephen Emerson
Jan. 1994

N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA

Detail of second floor interior, showing original round drop-away exits with safety rails, facing northeast

14 Spokane Fire Station No. 3
Spokane County, WA
Stephen Emerson
Jan. 1994
N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
Second floor interior, renovated for modern office facilities, facing east.

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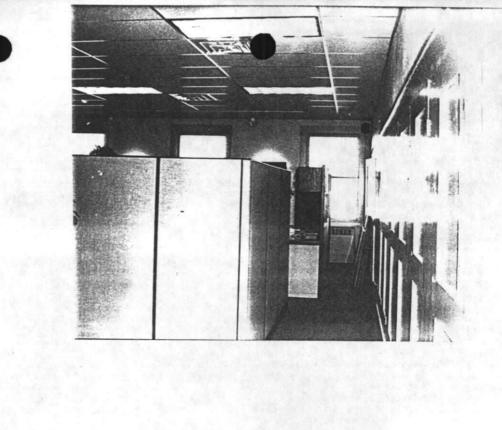
Spokane Fire Station No. 3 Spokane County, WA

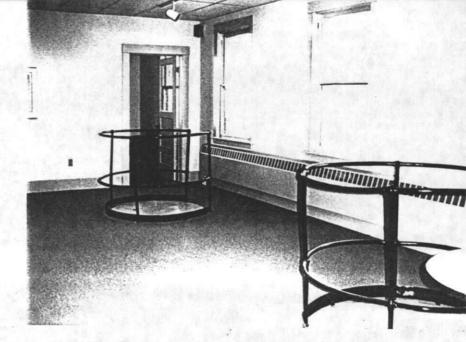
### 11. Photographs (Continued)

- 15 Spokane Fire Station No. 3
  Spokane County, WA
  Stephen Emerson
  Jan. 1994
  N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
  Detail of lounge/workshop area on second floor of former fire station shop, facing north
- Spokane Fire Station No 3
  Spokane County, WA
  Stephen Emerson
  Jan. 1994
  N. 6723 Winston Dr., Spokane, WA
  Detail of renovated second floor office area, facing east

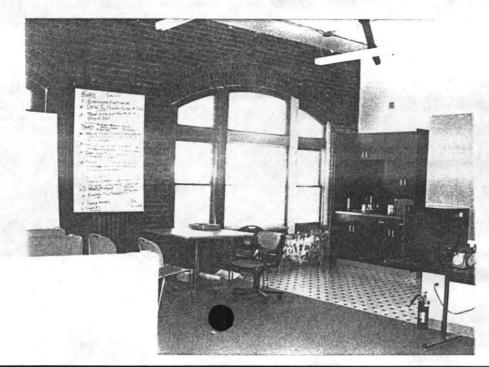
#### 11. Additional Items

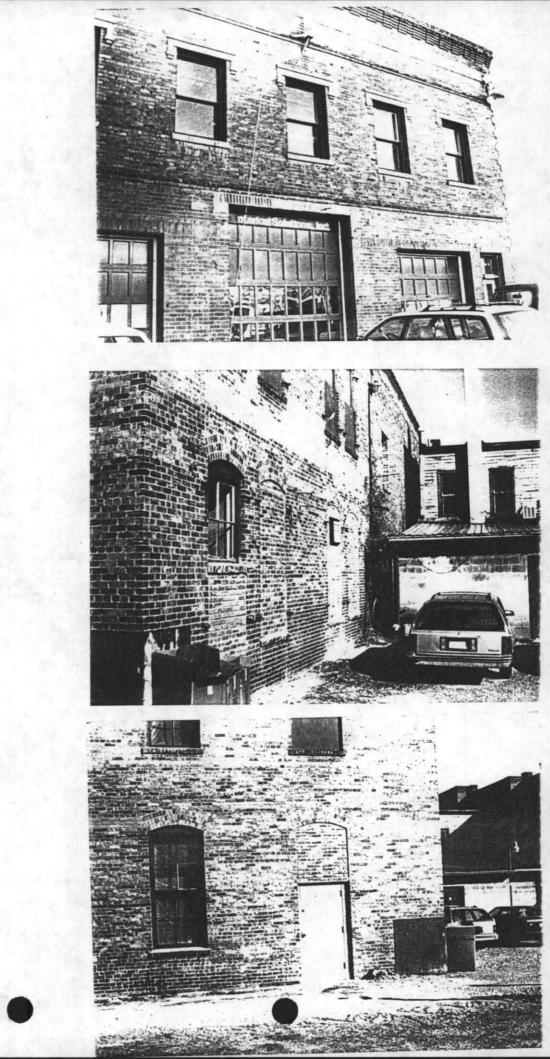
- A. Sanborn Map, 1891, first Spokane Fire Station No. 3
- C. Sanborn Map, 1902, first wood-frame station at Sharp and Monroe
- O. First wood-frame station at Sharp and Monroe, c. 1900
- P. Firetruck built by Spokane firemen, assembled in the shop behind this wood-frame station

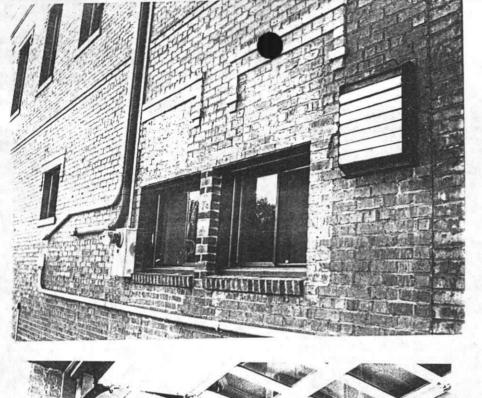


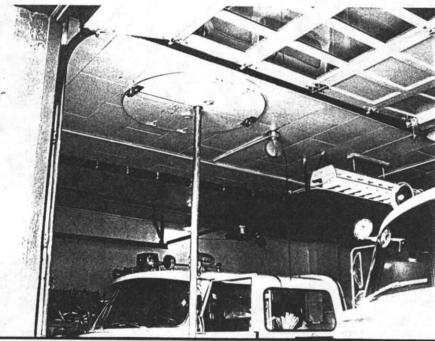




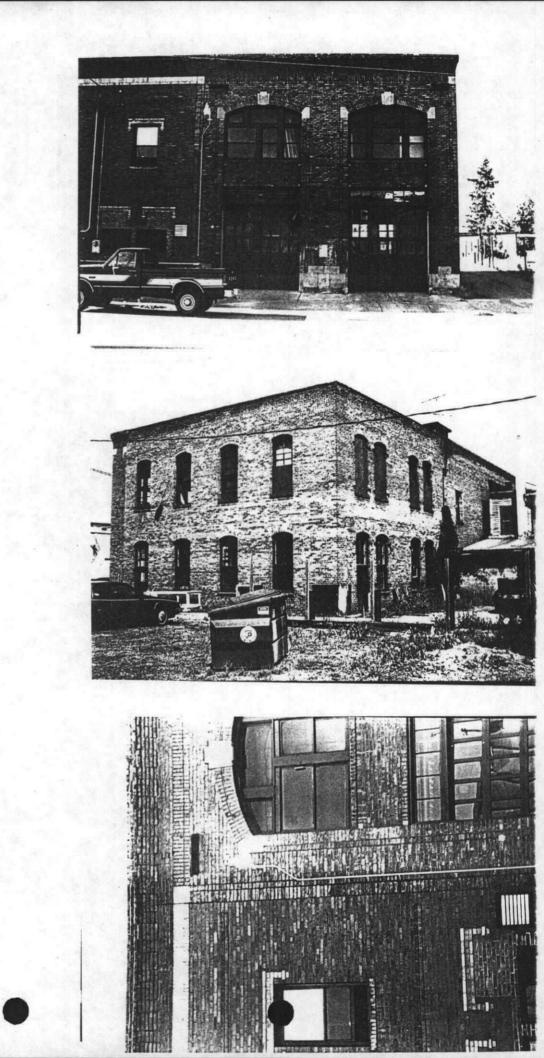






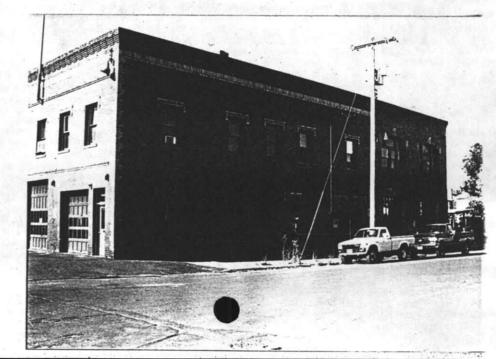


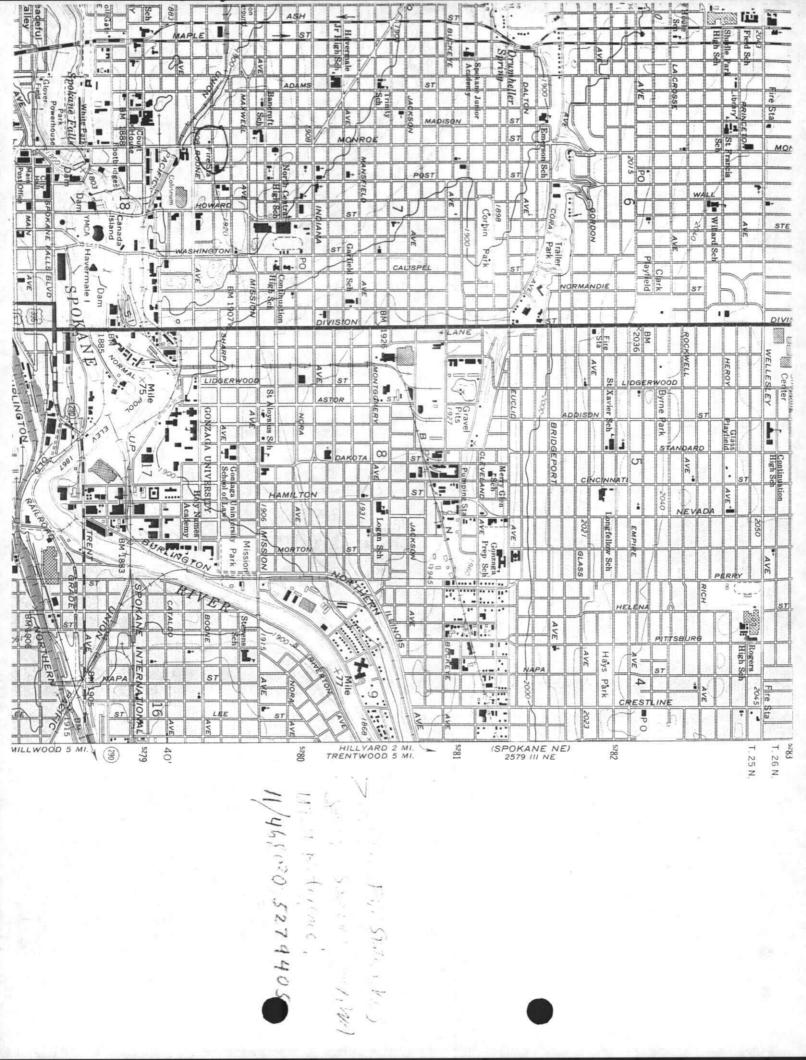


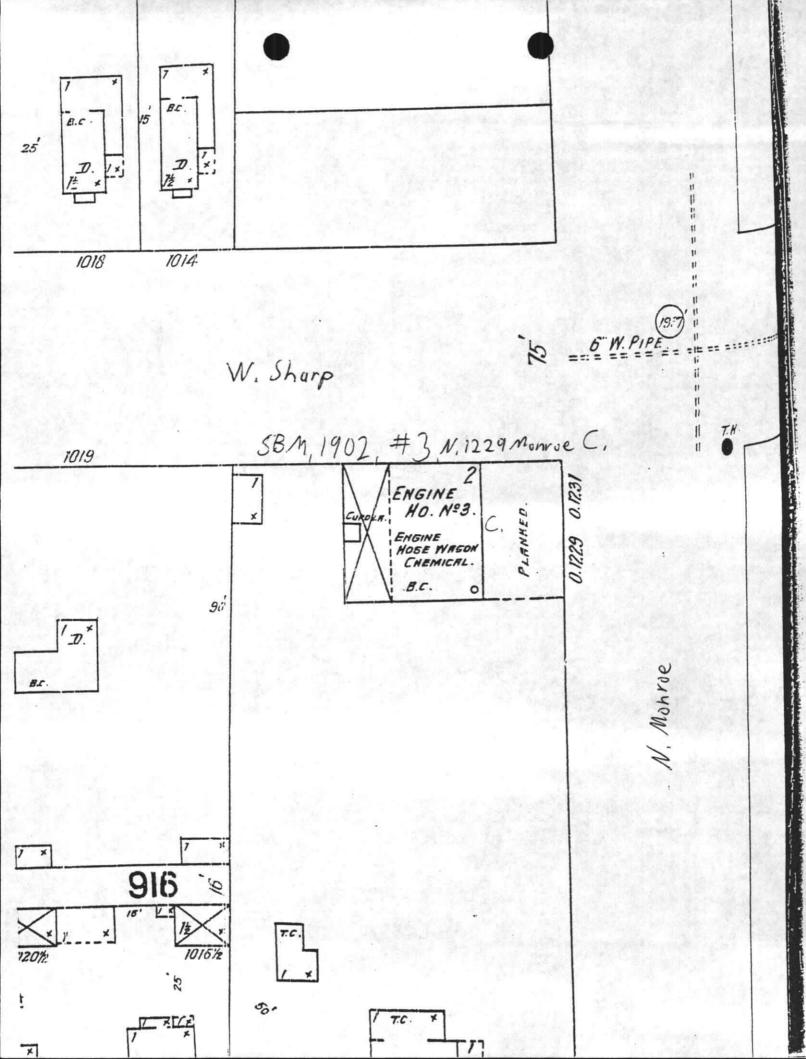


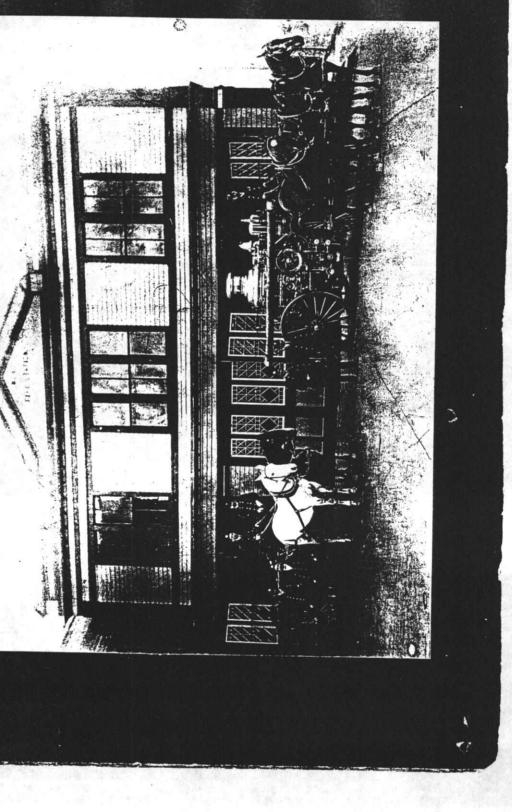












TH-20, F.S. #3, N. 1229 Monroe, c. 1900. O.

P.
TH-11, F.S. #3, N. 1229 Monroe, From SFD Annual Roport, Jul

