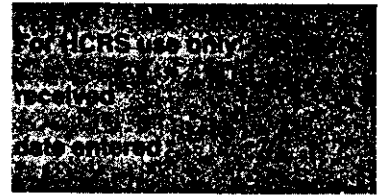


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Fire Department Headquarters; Fire Station #2

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1020 Central Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Kansas City _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district #5 Hon. Richard Bolling

state Missouri code 29 county Jackson code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>VACANT</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Kansas City, Missouri Fire Department

street & number 414 East 12th Street

city, town Kansas City _____ vicinity of _____ state Missouri

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Recorder of Deeds, Jackson County

Courthouse (Kansas City Annex)

street & number 415 East 12th Street

city, town Kansas City _____ state Missouri

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Kansas City, Kansas City Chapter American Institute

title of Architects has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1979 _____ federal _____ state _____ county ☒ local

depository for survey records

city, town Kansas City _____ state Missouri

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kansas City Fire Department Headquarters Building, 1020 Central Avenue, located in the Central Business District, is an example of the Beaux Arts Classicism style of Architecture. The building is sited midway along the west side of Central Avenue. The three story building faces east and occupies a frontage of 100 feet on Central, and extends 186 feet to the west. It includes a total floor area of 31,756 square feet which includes the basement.

The Fire Department Headquarters Building at 1020 Central survives as one of the few examples in Kansas City of a style of architecture known as Beaux Arts Classicism, which flourished in the United States from around 1895-1915. Two other notable examples of this style of architecture as practiced in Kansas City include the R.A. Long Mansion, 3218 Gladstone Blvd., 1909-11; and Union Station, Pershing Road, Main Street to Broadway, 1910-1914 both of which were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Perhaps the one greatest exemplar and paradigm of the style is the Grand Central Station Railroad terminal in New York City. (Warren & Wetland, 1909-1913.)

The style which adapts the Baroque mode with its abandoned use of decoration, receding planes, multiple reentrant angles, and large scaled plastic forms, particularly lent itself to the design of larger public buildings such as libraries, museums, railroad terminals, and civic structures. ¹

One of the characteristics of the Beaux Arts Classicism style that is expressed in the design of the Fire Department Headquarters Building is its symmetrical massing. The five bay primary facade is clearly articulated in the expression of its individual parts, and its distinctive central mass dominates the wings. This is a hallmark of the Beaux Arts Classicism style. ²

The building makes use of a classical vocabulary in such design details as the columns, entablature, and pediment. These individual elements are synthesized and adapted to express a more exuberant, less restrained approach to Classical forms.

Exterior

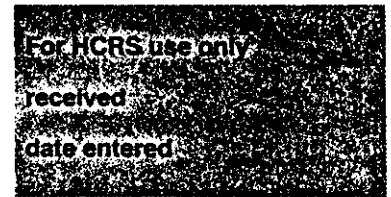
Construction Materials and Colors

The building is constructed of vitrified red brick, and the joints are filled with red mortar. The east facade is faced with "Phoenix white cut stone" that was quarried locally. ³ The interior finish of the building is of enamelled brick. The building has a stone foundation.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

FIRE DEPT. HEADQUARTERS, FIRE STATION #2



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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East (main) Facade

The facade is divided into five bays, with the central three projecting and arranged as a colossal temple front. Extending from the second story, four ribbed colossal columns support an entablature consisting of a bracketed cornice, and pediment. The entablature is inscribed with the legend: "CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT A.D. 1905." The columns frame recessed compound arches which are also ribbed. A single oculus is placed centrally within the pediment. The window areas contained within these ribbed surrounds are divided into two parts by stone spandrels that bisect them at the junction between the second and third stories. The third floor fenestration consists of double hung sash windows flanked by curved fixed-pane sidelights. The individual sections are separated by wooden mullions. The second story features double hung sash windows flanked by narrow double hung sidelights.

The first story of the central projecting mass is composed of square pedestal bases which provide the support for the three columns. An inscribed stone panel bearing the legend: "ALBERT TURNEY ARCHITECT, S.E. EDWARDS SUPERINTENDENT" is placed on the pedestal base of the third bay. Three recessed pedimented garage bays pierce the first story and were placed there in order to accommodate the vehicular traffic. The ribbing continues at this level, and the stone is rusticated. Stone receptacles in a saucer shape are raised on square bases placed above the pediment of the garage doors.

The bays which flank the temple front are slightly recessed and the stone used as a facing material is coursed and smooth. Fenestration of the second and third stories is with paired rectangular windows. The second floor windows feature a bracketed sill. A pedestrian entrance is located in the northern bay. Glass block, probably the result of a later alteration, fills in the area surrounding the doorway.

A one story extension at the south end of the east facade contains an additional garage bay which has been modified into paired double doors for pedestrian access. The fenestration of this bay consists of a single rectangular, six-over-six, double hung sash window.

South Facade

Much of the south facade is obscured from view by the American Hereford Association Building at 300 West 11th Street. The stone facing of the east facade continues around to the first bay of the south facade. The remainder of the wall surface is composed of red brick. Windows are rectangular, double hung sash, with stone sills.

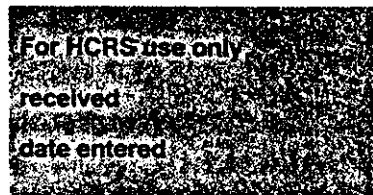
North Facade

The Kansas City Athletic Club at 1016 Central, constructed contemporaneously with the Fire Department Headquarters Building, occludes much of this facade from view. An alley separates the two buildings. Stone facing continues around the first bay, and the remainder of the wall surface is red brick. A chimney is placed approximately midway along the facade. A stone band course runs along the parapet wall. Windows are rectangular double hung sash, and carry stone sills.

**United States Department of the Interior
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FIRE DEPT. HEADQUARTERS, FIRE STATION #2



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West (Rear) Facade

The south bay projects forward from the building mass. A concrete pad, approximately 75x50 feet extends to the rear of the lot. The parapet wall terminates in stone coping and three regularly spaced brick chimneys extend beyond the wall surface. Windows are double hung and are either square or rectangular.

Interior

The interior of the building on the first floor currently consists of an unpartitioned area. The enamelled brick used in its construction is in excellent condition. The second and third stories are vacant and are in good to fair condition.

Alterations

The concrete pad at the west end of the building was originally part of the interior floor space. In February of 1966, a 60 x 60 two story section, as well as a 22 x 12 rear section were demolished. ⁴ The doorways that led into the rear of the station have been bricked in. The removal of that section of the building was probably accomplished in order to provide additional space for parking.

Condition

The building is in fair to good condition.

Site

The building is located midway along the west side of Central Avenue. Immediately to its north, separated by an alley, is the Kansas City Athletic Club; to the south is the American Hereford Association Building at 300 W. 11th Street. The Ararat Shrine Temple (currently the KMBC building) at 222 West 11th Street is to the east. A surface parking lot is located to the west. The buildings to the east and south of the Fire Department Headquarters building have been nominated to the National Register in recognition of their architectural importance.

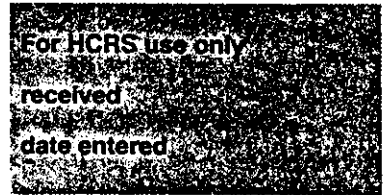
Present Status

Presently negotiations are underway by the Finance Department of the City of Kansas City (its current owner) to sell the building as surplus property. The sale of the property will be subject to a condition that requires the exterior of the building to be maintained in its present form and condition. ⁵

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FIRE DEPT. HEADQUARTERS, FIRE STATION #2



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FOOTNOTES

1. Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780, (Cambridge: The M.I.T. Press, 1969), p. 149.
2. Ibid.
3. "New Fire Headquarters," Kansas City Star, 28 April 1906, p. 2.
4. Building Permit No. 24518, Public Works Department, 18th floor, City Hall, Kansas City, Missouri.
5. City of Kansas City, Missouri, Resolution No. 52486 "Authorizing the Director of Finance to Offer for Sale Fire Station Number 2 Located at 1020 Central," 13 February 1981.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) fire fighting technology

Specific dates	1905-06	Builder/Architect	Albert Turney, architect
		Superintendent:	S.E. Edwards

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fire Department Headquarters Building, 1020 Central Avenue, testifies to a young City's efforts to provide for the safety of its burgeoning population. The Fire station employed the latest technological advances then known to the science of fire fighting. Its design incorporated features to provide for the maximum efficiency of the fire fighters, and it had the greatest capacity for the storage and maintenance of fire apparatus in the entire United States.¹ The building is one of the finest of the few buildings in Kansas City that employed the Beaux-Arts Classicism style of architecture, with its exceptional monumental temple front of ribbed Doric columns. Albert Turney and Samuel E. Edwards, the architects employed in the design of the building, were prominent local architects whose distinctive designs have added much to the architectural character of Kansas City.

Historical Data

Protection from the ravages of fire began in Kansas City in 1858 with the organization of a volunteer fire brigade. The formation of a volunteer company followed in 1860, and in 1869 the McGee Hook and Ladder Company was established, named for Mayor Milton McGee. In response to an evident need to protect the rapidly growing City from losses, both human and material, the City installed its first salaried fire department in August of 1871.² In 1887, a three story fire headquarters building was erected at 807 Walnut and housed Hose Company #2. The building was later demolished.³

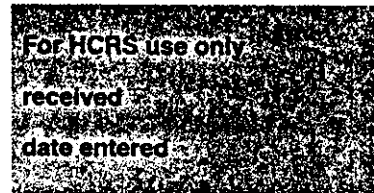
In July 1905 the Kansas City Board of Public Works approved plans for a new Headquarters for the Fire Department. The building was to be located on Central Street between 10th and 11th Streets and in addition to serving as Headquarters would house Hose Company #2, previously located at 807 Walnut. Although the plans were approved in 1905, considerable deliberation went into the building years before this. Fire Department Chief Edward Trickett had, some three years earlier, visited fire department facilities in New York, Chicago, Boston, and Buffalo to study and assess their equipment and building features.⁴

The building which was to cost \$70,000 was planned to become the best equipped and most efficient fire station in the United States. In order to meet the wishes of the Board of Public Works in designing such a building, Albert Turney, the architect, provided "...the most imposing public building in Kansas City."⁵ The style of architecture selected by Mr. Turney that would best accomplish his purpose was described in contemporary accounts as a "...modern French on Doric architecture."⁶

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FIRE DEPT. HEADQUARTERS, FIRE STATION #2



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Work was to have begun on the station in September of 1905 for its occupancy in January of 1906. However, work did not commence until February of 1906, and because severe weather hampered the efforts of the builders, the fire station was not occupied until late summer of 1906. George W. Huggins was the general contractor of the building, and S.E. Edwards, Superintendent of Buildings for the City, supervised its construction. While much of the building activity in Kansas City during the winter of 1906 was curtailed as a result of a shortage of construction materials, Mr. Huggins ensured that the fire station would be completed without any additional delays. He personally ensured that the stone used on the building would continue to be quarried from its Southern Missouri site during the winter months.⁷ The slabs of stone, some of which weighed 15 tons, were at that time the largest ever to be placed on a building in Kansas City.⁸

The need to provide for the efficacy and comfort of the firefighters led to features that were incorporated into plans for the new building. The building was designed to quarter 62 men.⁹ The first floor of the building housed the fire apparatus, horse stalls, and harness rooms. Each of the stalls was equipped with a sanitary floor. The stalls were built at the rear of the apparatus rather than at the sides which was then considered to be the "universal way." This arrangement permitted a greater economy of space management for the storage of the apparatus without increasing the interior floor area.¹⁰ Lounging rooms for the firemen were placed on each side, and arranged so that the men could immediately be at their places should an alarm be turned in. The interior of the building had sufficient room to accommodate 12 pieces of fire apparatus which then represented the largest number to be housed in a single fire station in the United States.¹¹

Egress from the building was provided both in the garage bays fronting on Central street, and in the rear of the building (west facade), which opened onto a 25 foot alley. The firefighters upon receiving an alarm could leave the building from both front and rear exits, responding quickly to the emergency. The doors at the exits were overhead garage doors and were equipped with a device that operated by the pull of a cord, in order to open them quickly.¹²

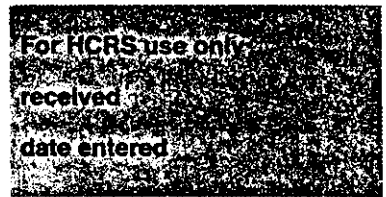
The second floor of the Station served as a dormitory, offices, locker, shower facilities, and operators room. At the east end of the building was the office of the Chief, and other Fire Department officials. An exterior staircase led up to these rooms. At the rear (west) end of the second floor were the sleeping quarters of the men.

The third story of the building contained the gymnasium, the fire alarm system, and the newspaper reporters room. The east side of the third floor housed the fire alarm room and the athletic director's office. A great deal of emphasis was placed on the role of recreation in the discipline of a firefighter. In maintaining the physical conditioning of the men, it was felt that they could be more effective in their jobs, as they needed to climb ropes and ladders quickly. In 1906, every fire station in Kansas City was equipped with a gymnasium of some sort, but the Headquarters building maintained the largest and most commodious, as the majority of space on the third floor was allocated for the gymnasium.¹³

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The building served as the Fire Department Headquarters and repair shop throughout its long history until it was vacated in 1980.

Albert Turney

Albert Turney was active in Kansas City from approximately 1895-1936. Mr. Turney was responsible for the distinctive designs of many fashionable residences and apartments in Kansas City. In 1905, along with the commission for the Fire Station Headquarters Building, Mr. Turney designed two other fire stations located at 3033 Holmes (Fire Station #17), and 1504 E. 6th Street (Fire Station #14). The Fire Station Headquarters Building was the largest of his public Commissions.

S.E. Edwards

Samuel E. Edwards, who served in the capacity of Superintendent of Buildings for the City of Kansas City from 1904-05, was a practicing architect in the City from approximately 1900-1939. For many years Edwards was in partnership with J.C. Sunderland, and they designed several churches along with numerous apartment/hotels and residences.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Fire Station Headquarters Building, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register as an example of the themes of "architecture," and "technology."

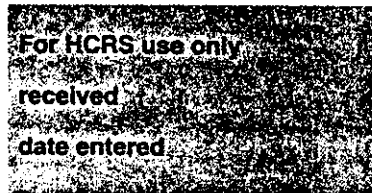
FOOTNOTES

1. "New Fire Headquarters," Kansas City Star, 28 April 1906, p. 2.
2. "Headquarters 20 Years," Kansas City Star, 24 June 1906, p. 13.
3. Ibid.
4. Kansas City Star, 28 April 1906, p. 2.
5. "To Cost \$63,000," Kansas City Journal, 26 July 1905, p. 3.
6. "A New Fire Headquarters," Kansas City Times, 26 July 1905, p. 2.
7. "The New Fire Headquarters," Kansas City Star, 29 April 1906, p. 8.
8. Ibid.
9. "A New Fire Headquarters," Kansas City Times, 26 July 1905, p. 2.

**United States Department of the Interior
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FIRE DEPT. HEADQUARTERS, FIRE STATION #2



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10. Kansas City Journal, 26 July 1905, p. 3.
11. Kansas City Star, 28 April 1906, p. 2.
12. Ibid.
13. Kansas City Times, 26 July 1905, p. 2.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"A New Fire Headquarters." Kansas City Times, 26 July 1905, p. 2.

"Authorizing the Director of Finance to Offer for sale Fire Station Number 2 located at 1020 Central," Resolution No. 52486, City of Kansas City, Missouri, 13 February 1981.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name "Kansas City"

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification Ashburns Add S 12.5 Ft lot 3 All lots 4,5,6, and N 12.5 Ft lot 7 Blk 15

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen J. Uguccioni - Architectural Historian

organization Landmarks Commission of Kansas City date December 15, 1981

street & number 414 East 12th Street telephone (816) 274-2555

city or town Kansas City state Missouri

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Historic

Keeper of the National Register

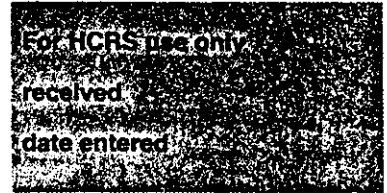
Attest:

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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FIRE DEPT. HEADQUARTERS, FIRE STATION #2



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Building Permit No. 24518, Public Works Department, 18th Floor, City Hall, Kansas City, Missouri.

"Headquarters 20 Years." Kansas City Star, 24 June 1906, p. 13.

"New Fire Headquarters." Kansas City Star, 28 April 1906, p. 2.

"The New Fire Headquarters." Kansas City Star, 29 April 1906, p. 8.

"To Cost \$63,000." Kansas City Journal, 26 July 1905, p. 3.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person June 1982
Department of Natural Resources 314/751-4096
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City Missouri 65102

7062 11 NW
(PARKVILLE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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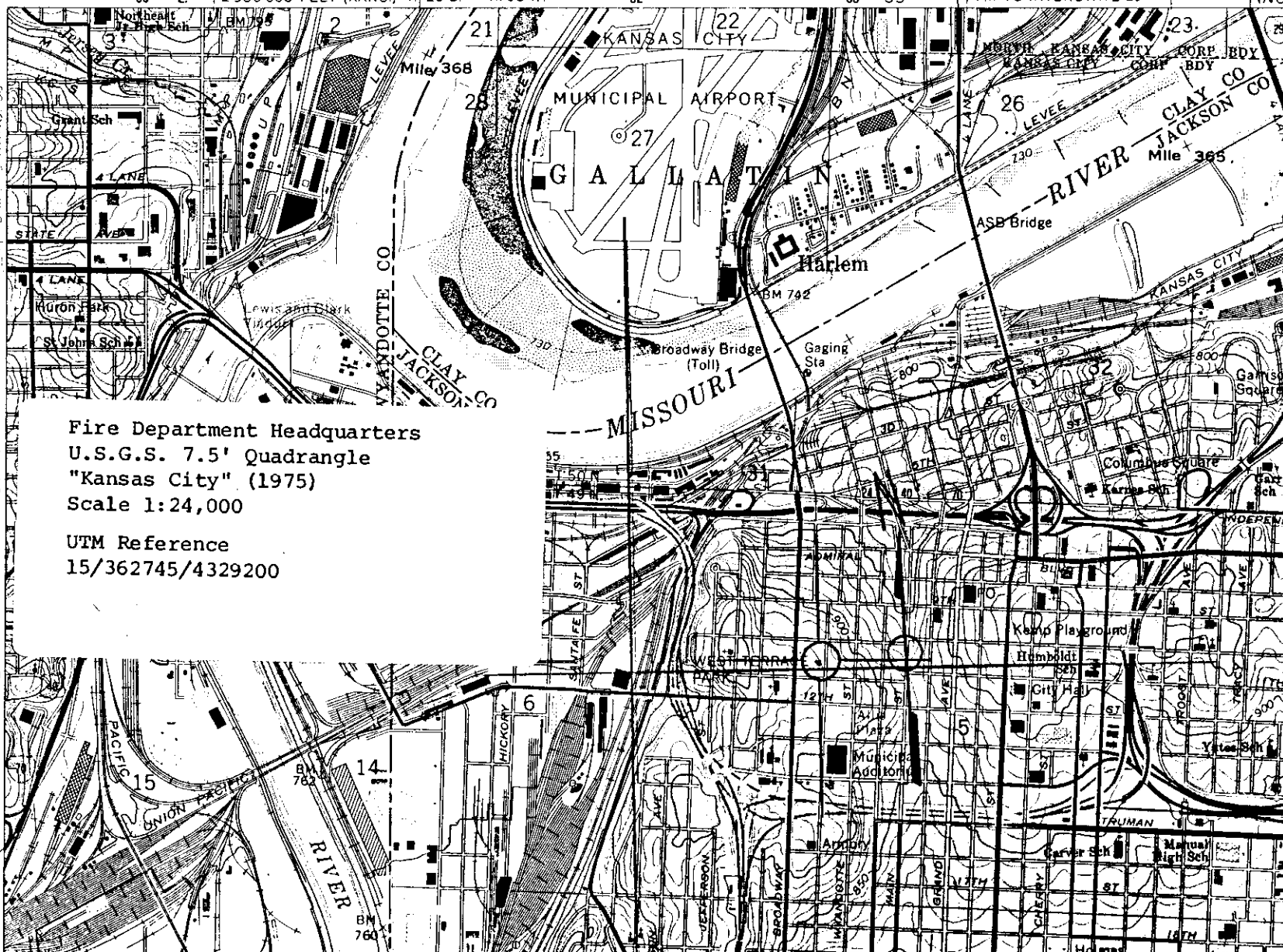
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Fire Department Headquarters
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Kansas City" (1975)
Scale 1:24,000

UTM Reference
15/362745/4329200

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(KANS.)

TOPEKA 59 MI
14 MI. TO KANS. 58

4328

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Fire Department Headquarters, Fire Station #2**

City or Vicinity: **Kansas City**

County: **Jackson County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Sherry Piland**

Date

Photographed: **Oct. 1981**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 14. N façade. View looking W.
- 2 of 14. W façade. View looking E.
- 3 of 14. S façade. View looking E
- 4 of 14. E façade. Detail of windows, 2nd and third floor. View looking W.
- 5 of 14. E façade. View looking SW.



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