

Collection #  
SC 3647

**INDIANAPOLIS FIRE STATION  
DRAWINGS, 1911-1913**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION:** 1 flat file folder

**COLLECTION  
DATES:** 1911-1913

**PROVENANCE:** Elizabeth Brandon, Indianapolis, IN

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:**

**RELATED  
HOLDINGS:** Indianapolis Fire Station Photographs, P0359

**ACCESSION  
NUMBER:** 2018.0383

**NOTES:**

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Indianapolis Fire Department began in 1826 as an unpaid, volunteer force. In 1859, the paid fire department formed, with full-time firemen earning \$300 a year. Men on the force were required to live at the firehouses and could not leave their posts except for one meal, sickness in the family, or department business. Beginning in the 1870s, the shifts were still seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, but men could spend one night sleeping at home, and by 1912 they received a week's paid vacation and one day a week off. It was also at this time when the department began wearing uniforms. During this growth period from the 1870s to early 1900s, the city invested in the water infrastructure, supplying 107 miles of water mains and 931 public hydrants over a twenty-one square mile area in 1893. By 1909 the department employed 264 men, and equipment included twelve fire engines, twenty-seven hose-reel wagons, four chemical engines, ten hook-and-ladder companies, and 121 horses. The fire department made the shift from horses to motor vehicles beginning in 1908, and became fully motorized by 1921, even though they retained some horses until 1928. The department did not offer any significant, formal training to firemen until 1929, and standards for recruits were minimal: 21 to 30 years old, average weight, a neighborhood character check, and a clean record with the police.

### Sources:

“Fire Department History” <https://www.indy.gov/activity/fire-department-history>

Bodenhamer, David J., and Robert G. Barrows. *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*.  
Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains one blueprint and one drawing. The blueprint is for the first floor of Fire Station No. 13, which was located at the corner of Kentucky Avenue and Maryland Street at the Capitol Avenue intersection. The building was almost triangular because of the nature of the street intersections, and the plan for the first floor included the Apparatus Rooms, a stable with eight stalls, the Assistant Chief's office and buggy room, and a toilet. The architectural drawing is for the basement floor of the Fire Department Headquarters, which was located at the corner of New York Street and Massachusetts Avenue. The drawing shows the portions of the basement floor that were not excavated, as well as the portion of the basement that was used for the coal room, boiler room, and a space to dry and store hoses.

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Blueprint, First Floor, Indianapolis Fire Station No. 13  
by Herbert L. Bass & Co., 30 June 1911

Architectural drawing, Basement Floor, Fire  
Headquarters for the City of Indianapolis by D.A  
Bohlen & Son, 28 April 1913

### CONTAINER

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