

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 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.

DRAFT

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Fire Station #1

Other names/site number: City of Palm Springs Fire Station 1

Name of related multiple property listing:
The Architecture of Albert Frey

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

2. Location

Street & number: 277 North Indian Canyon Drive

City or town: Palm Springs State: CA County: Riverside

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

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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.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/fire station

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/fire station

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: METAL: steel, aluminum, CONCRETE
BLOCK, GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

City of Palm Springs Fire Station #1 is located along the busy commercial thoroughfare of North Indian Canyon Drive. Constructed in 1955, the one-story desert modern fire station designed by Albert Frey is of terracotta-colored concrete block construction and consists of a low horizontal administrative wing and a taller garage containing two fire engines. The administrative wing is capped by a flat roof that extends outward to form deep eaves with a corrugated metal ceiling and fascia. A floor-to-ceiling grid of tinted windows punctuates the primary (east) elevation within which the pedestrian entrance is located. The attached garage rises above the administrative wing and is fronted by a roll up metal door. Fire Station #1 is in excellent condition and retains a high level of historic integrity.

Narrative Description

Albert Frey designed this one-story fire station in 1955. It is of terracotta-colored concrete block construction with the flat roof of the low, horizontal administrative wing extending to form deep eaves with a corrugated metal ceiling and fascia (**Figure 1**). A floor-to-ceiling grid of tinted windows interrupted by a solid wood entry door punctuates the administrative wing's primary

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(east) elevation. The eaves, ceiling, fascia, and entrance are all painted the sage green color associated with Albert Frey. A flagpole penetrates a small square cutout in the front eave (**Figure 2**). South of the window grid attached to the concrete block exterior are the words “CITY OF PALM SPRINGS FIRE STATION No. 1” rendered in metal in a modern typeface. The attached garage rises above the administrative wing and is fronted by a roll up metal door protected by a tall, corrugated metal parapet painted sage green. On the secondary south elevation, slender steel posts support the broad overhang beneath which clerestory windows provide interior light. The rear of the building contains two small utility rooms and the garage opening. As is typical with the buildings of Albert Frey, there is no applied ornamentation and no historical references in its design. The entire composition is compact, efficient, and elegant.

Few modifications are visible since the building was constructed in 1955, although the interior of the administrative wing lobby has been remodeled. Overall the integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association remains high. As a result, Fire Station #1 is able to convey its architectural significance because it exhibits key character-defining features associated with the desert modern design work of Albert Frey. It is of terracotta-colored concrete block construction; has a flat roof; corrugated metal eaves, ceiling, and fascia painted sage green; incorporates large expanses of glass; and avoids applied ornamentation and historical references.

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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.)

- 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

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1955

Significant Dates

1955

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Frey, Albert

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Palm Springs Fire Station #1 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of civic architecture associated with the modern movement as interpreted by Albert Frey for the desert environment of the Coachella Valley. In addition, the property meets *The Architecture of Albert Frey* Multiple Property Submission registration requirements for civic buildings in association with the historic context “Desert Modern Design in the Coachella Valley, 1934-1965.” The period of significance corresponds with the building’s date of construction, 1955.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

City of Palm Springs Fire Station #1 exemplifies the distinctive characteristics of Albert Frey’s approach to modern civic design in the desert. It is of terracotta-colored concrete block construction; has a flat roof; corrugated metal eaves, ceiling, and fascia painted sage green; incorporates large expanses of glass; and avoids applied ornamentation and historical references.

Fire Station #1 exemplifies the distinctive characteristics of civic architecture associated with architect Albert Frey. The importance of the building and its significance within the “Desert modern design in the Coachella Valley 1934-1965” historic context are presented in the Multiple Property Documentation Form. City of Palm Springs Fire Station #1 is a key example of the civic building property type that maintains sufficient integrity to be readily identifiable as the work of master architect Albert Frey. The property meets National Register Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of civic architecture associated with Albert Frey and is the work of a master architect.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

As indicated in *The Architecture of Albert Frey* Multiple Property Documentation Form.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University of California, Santa Barbara
 - Other
- Name of repository: Palm Springs Art Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.826234 Longitude: -116.545817

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is located at 277 North Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, Riverside County, California on the west side of North Indian Canyon Drive. The property fronts approximately 100 feet of North Indian Canyon Drive. Its legal description is LOT 33 AND 34 BLK 25 MB 009/432 SD MAP OF P APN: 513-091-021.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Fire Station #1, 277 North Indian Canyon Drive.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Peter Moruzzi/Architectural Historian
organization: _____
street & number: 2018 Griffith Park Blvd. #114
city or town: Los Angeles state: CA zip code: 90039
e-mail petermoruzzi@gmail.com
telephone: 213-706-0151
date: February 10, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property Fire Station #1
City or Vicinity Palm Springs
County Riverside
State California
Photographer Peter Moruzzi
Date Photographed February 2015

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

- 1 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0001.tif
Context view, camera facing northwest
- 2 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0002.tif
East elevation, camera facing west
- 3 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0003.tif
East elevation, camera facing northwest
- 4 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0004.tif
West elevation, camera facing southwest
- 5 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0005.tif
South and rear (west) elevations, camera facing northeast
- 6 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0006.tif
Rear (west) elevation, camera facing southeast
- 7 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0007.tif
Detail, flagpole cutout and glazing, camera facing northwest
- 8 of 8 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_Fire Station #1_0008.tif
Interior view, camera facing northeast

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- Figure 1 Primary (east) elevation, looking west, 1958.
- Figure 2 East and south elevations, looking northwest, 1958.

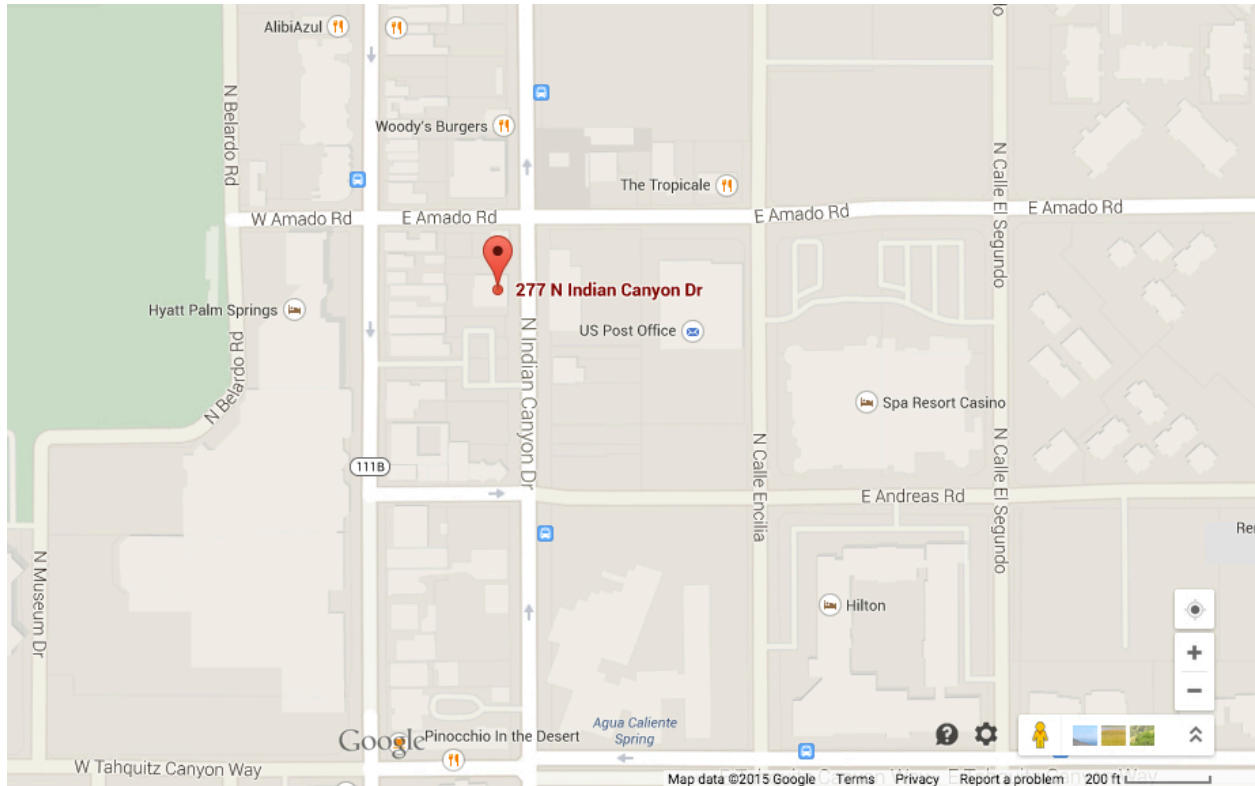
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Location Map

Latitude: 33.826234

Longitude: -116.545817



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Sketch Map/Photo Key



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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Figure 1. Primary (east) elevation, looking west, 1958.



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Figure 2. East and south elevations, looking northwest, 1958.



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